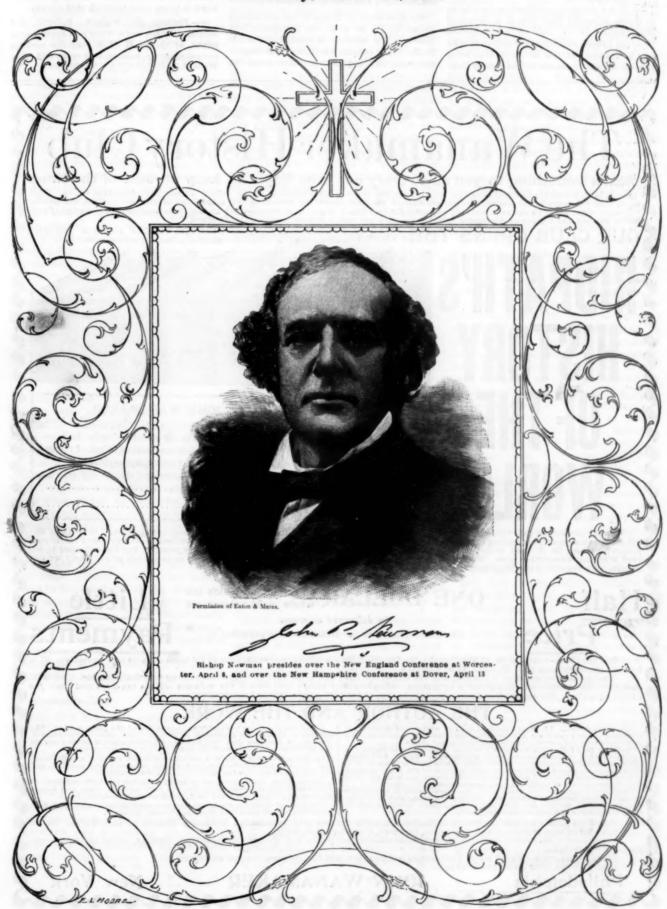
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Wednesday, March 16, 1898



HOME MISSION NOTES

- Boylan Industrial Home at Jacksonville, Fla., under the care of the Woman's Home Missionary Society, is an evangelizing centre for all the country thereabout. In the family of thirty-five girls there is not one outside the Christian fold - twelve girls having recently been converted. Miss H. E. Emerson is the faithful and highly successful superintendent.

It is a source of gratitude to the friends of Home Missions that Mrs. S. L. Beiler, of Washington, D. C., has so far recovered from the filness following her trip to Alaska in the interests of the W. H. M. S. as to be able to speak at several of the Spring Con-

ference anniversaries of the Society. She is in position not only to interest, but to instruct, as to missions in that distant field.

- An old Navejo Indian about to die was asked by the missionary what he thought was beyond the grave. "I don't know what to believe," was the pathetic reply. When she told him of Christ and His great salvation he replied: " If the white people knew this, why didn't they tell us before? It is too late now; I cannot understand it!"

- Miss Mary A. Tripp is the missionary of the W. H. M. S. to the Navejos in New Mexico. The mission is located at Jewett, N. M. These Indians are industrious, ingenious, and very inquisitive. They never tire of asking questions about God, and Christ, and right living. Miss Tripp has great hope that this noble tribe may yet become Christianized.

- The department of Travelers' Aid has recently been instituted in the Cleveland Desconess Home (W. H. M. S.). Work of this character is also being done by deaconesses in Buffalo and Pittsburg. It is a work greatly appreciated by sick, lonely, and overburdened travelers. Good preventive work is being done through this agency.

- Frances E. Willard, beloved and mourned by all, was a warm and appreciative friend of the W. H. M. S. At the seventh annual meeting, held in Boston, in 1888, Miss Willard delivered the annual address.

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Philadelphia

JOHN WANAMAKER

New York

Zion's Merald

Volume LXXVI

Boston, Wednesday, March 16, 1898

Number 11

Zion's Herald

CHARLES PARKHURST, Editor
A. S. WEED, Publisher

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

Price, \$2.50 a year, including postage

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All stationed preachers in the Methodist Episcopal Church are authorized agents for their locality.

Bread Direct from Wheat

The German process of making bread direct from wheat without milling, or, in other words, without first converting the wheat into flour, has been introduced into Italy where, in the present stress, cheap bread is a desideratum. The proc-The wheat is cleaned, ess is simple. soaked in tepid water, turned into a machine containing a double line of thin spirals working in opposite directions which reduces it to a homogeneous paste, and passes thence into a double cylinder which compacts it. It is then ready to shape into loaves and bake. This bread is sold in Rome for three cents a pound. It is said to be palatable, nutritious, and pleasing to the eye. It rarely gets moldy and remains "fresh" for days.

The Congo Railroad

After five years of labor it is now practically completed. It is about 260 miles long - from Matadi to Stanley Pool - and has ten intermediate stations. of which Lufu, Kimpessi, Inkissi and Ntamba are the most important. The most serious engineering difficulties were encountered at Palaballa, not far from Matadi, where about eighteen miles of rock had to be cut through or tunneled. There are eight bridges. This new road will play a most important part in the development of the Congo Free State. Hitherto the barrier interposed by the cataracts of the river has been conquered only by laborious and tedious porterage. Some 100,000 loads have been conveyed on men's backs each season. This railway link between the navigation of the Lower and Upper Congo will shorten the time of transportation to twenty-four hours.

An Important Decision

How far a State can regulate railroad freight rates within its limits, was clearly defined in the recent decision of Justice Harian. A law was enacted in Nebraska in 1893 which established a maximum freight rate for local business (not interstate freight). The railroads at once instituted proceedings to enjoin the State from putting the law in force. The injunction was granted by the Circuit Court, and the judgment was affirmed by the Court of Appeals. The State of-

ficials then brought the case before the Supreme Federal Court. In the decision rendered by Justice Harlan the railroads were again upheld, on the ground that the maximum rate as fixed by Nebraska law was so low as to make the running of the roads unprofitable. It therefore amounted to practical confiscation of the roads, and violated the Fourteenth Article of the Constitution which provides against the taking of property without due process of law. The right of the State to regulate freight rates within its boundaries was not questioned, but its schedules must not destroy the value of railroad property by making unreasonable reductions. It is believed that the effect of this decision will be to make railroad investments more stable and secure, and to warn the Populists and Western farmers that their fight against transportation companies must be kept within just limits.

A Wonderful Teleoptical Apparatus

Its inventor is a Galician schoolmaster. named Jan Szczepanik. He claims to have discovered a method of transmitting, by an electrical wire, pictures in natural colors between stations no matter how far apart. He describes his apparatus as consisting of two mirrors so adjusted as to separate a picture of what is occurring into a number of dots along an endless line. These dots represent rays of light of differing vibrations and produce in the apparatus electrical currents of varying strength which are transmitted by wire to the second apparatus, where they are changed into light rays and re-combined by means of mirrors into a united picture. Herr Szczepanik declares that he will be able at the Paris Exposition to display a perfect transcript of the manœuvres of the French Army and Navy in their natural colors, though hundreds of miles

For the Reform of the Consular Service

A bill, favorably reported to the House from the committee on Foreign Affairs, strikes at the root of existing evils, and proposes a scheme of organization which, if adopted, will help to make our consular service respectable and efficient. As to grades, the plan provides for consulsgeneral of the first class, salary \$6,000; consuls general of the second class, salary \$5,000; consuls, first class, salary \$4,000; consuls, second class, salary 82 500; with vice consuls of first, second and third class (salaries \$1,800, \$1,500, and \$1,200 respectively), and twenty-five consular clerks (salary \$1,200), to be eligible to promotion. All commercial agents are to be transformed into consuls of the second class. All fees, official or unofficial, are to be paid into the Treasury. The age of admission to the serv-

ice is limited to parsons between twentyone and fifty years old. Two-thirds of the present incumbents of consular offices are to be examined within three years after the passage of the act, the board to consist of the Civil Service Commissioners and two officials of the State Department. The bill further provides for a commission to be appointed by the President to assist him in reorganizing the service, said commission to consist of two members of the Senate. three of the House, and one officer of the State Department. The reorganization is to cover all offices in the consular service, and is to be completed within two years from the date of the passage of the bill.

The Bill to Suppress Food Adulteration

It is known as the Brosius bill. It proposes to establish in the Department of Agriculture a bareau which shall investigate samples of food and medicines; and, as Federal authority may not interfere with State matters, to prohibit interstate traffic in all adulterated articles. Manufacturers and dealers in food and drugs intended for export or for interstate commerce will be required, under the provisions of this bill, to register the same at the Agricultural Department, where analyses will be made of each article from time to time. Unfortunately this bill, which so vitally concerns the health and the domestic expenditure of millions of consumers, encounter strenuous opposition from hundreds of manufacturers who are profiting from fraud. It will probably require prolonged agitation by pure food reformers before a public sentiment shall be created which will insist upon an enactment like that proposed by Congressman Brosius.

The Lattimer Verdict

For five weeks Sheriff Martin, of Luzerne County, Pa., and sixty seven of his deputies, have been on trial at Wilkesbarre on the charge of murder for firing upon a mob of striking miners at Lattimer last September and killing several of them. The jary brought in last week a verdict of acquittal. To those who read the proceedings from day to day, no other verdict seemed possible. It was clearly brought out that the strikers were lawless and violent, that the sheriff was justified in organizing an armed posse, that he used proper means to induce the strikers to disperse, and that it became necessary at last - not merely to save life, but to preserve the public peace and uphold law - to open fire upon the misguided men who could be turned aside from their unjawful purpose in no other way. The verdict was not merely a just, but a salutary, one. It not only exculpates the sheriff and having acted precipitately and unwarrantably in taking life, but it serves also notice upon the hordes of ignorant and turbulent aliens who constitute the bulk of our mining communities, that law lessness in the future will be repressed The Nile Reservoirs at whatever cost.

The Provident Loan Society

This admirable organization in New York city, which has for its purpose the aid of needy and distressed persons by loans of money at interest upon the pledge or mortgage of personal property, has just issued its third annual report. Its aim, in brief, is to replace the pawnshop, with its ruinous interest and exactions. Thus, it advances a loan nearly equal to the value of the property pledged; it charges but one per cent per month interest; it gives from three to six months' grace after the loan matures; the borrower is permitted to pay in installments, and is notified in case of sale: if any sum is realized by the sale of the property in excess of what is due to the society, it is returned to the borrower. The enterprise is a business one, but it is also Christian, having had its birth in Dr. Greer's church. It is a scheme to prevent pauperism, and to tide over those who are in temporary financial distress. Its success is demonstrated by the fact that, last year, though 36,000 people were aided, almost every loan was redeemed. The society proposes to extend its beneficent work by opening branch offices.

The Senate and Civil Service

The result of months spent in patient investigation of the classified service by the Senate committee appointed for the purpose has been submitted to the upper house in the shape of three reports two of them minority. One of the latter, which is signed by the Democratic members of the committee, makes no suggestion whatever to the President. Messra, Lodge, Wolcott and Harris agree upon a separate report, suggesting a brief list of offices that might, at the pleasure of the President, be excepted. These offices are the deputy collectors of Internal Revenue, deputy collectors of Customs, private secretaries to executive officials, assistant district attorneys, and assistant United States marshals. In their opinion, the system of local examining boards of the Pension Office needs complete revision; and the classifled service ought to be extended to the Congressional Library employees and to the clerical force in the District of Columbia. The majority report, which bears the signatures of Chairman Pritchard and Senators Morrill and Elkins, agrees with the other reports that no legislation is necessary, but suggests a much larger list of exemptions than Senator Lodge proposes. It recommends, in addition, that the chief clerks of all the departments be taken out from under the law; also, the chief clerks of the bureaus of the Interior Department, special agents and law examiners; Post Office inspectors and special agents of the Agricultural Department; a long list of Internal Revenue officials, and many others. The President, fortu-

his deputies from the grave charge of nately, is not so eager as was the Governor of New York to "take the starch out" of the Civil Service law. As the matter rests with him under the statute, few, if any, modifications are expected.

It has long been known that the fertility and productivity of Middle and Lower Egypt would be immensely increased if the waters of the Nile could be impounded at certain points during the flood, and the flow so regulated as to continue the irrigation throughout the year. Quite recently the Khedive has signed a contract with a British firm for the construction of the needed reservoirs. There will be two of them, the principal one at Assonan (at the First Cataract), where more than 20,000,000 cubic feet of water will be gradually stored during the autumn months and until February, for use from April to the end of August; and a second and smaller one at Assiout, to raise the river level during the summer and increase the distributing power of the canals in Middle Egypt and the Fayoum. At Assouan a canal with locks will be constructed around the cataract to give passage for vessels. The work is to be completed within five years. It will cost \$11 250,000, but no payment will be made until the dams are built. It is officially estimated that the productive area of the little province of Gisseh will be increased by this improvement from 5,000 acres to 60,000. Taking the average value of its summer crops at \$50 per acre, this would mean an annual gain of \$2,750,000 in that small district alone. The proposed enterprise will be classified as one of the most important and beneficent of our modern times.

" At the Discretion of the President"

With what purpose in view President McKinley, as Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, is placing the nation not merely in an attitude of defence, but also on a war footing for aggressive action, no one precisely knows. Very few, indeed, raise the question. With entire trust, and with astonishing unanimity, Congress has placed in his hands \$50,000,000, to be expended "at his discretion" in preparing the country to withstand attack — but from whom? and why? During all last week the utmost activity prevailed. New ships were put in commission; options were secured for the purchase of ships building abroad: provision was made to arm and commission auxiliary cruisers; coal and ammunition in large quantities were dispatched to our fleet at Key West; enlistments for navy and army were ordered at different points; hurry orders were sent to arsenals and projectile factories; forts were garrisoned; provision was made to man the batteries from Maine to Galveston; a new military Department of the South was created, with headquarters at Atlanta; foreign nations were "sounded" to learn their attitude in certain contingencies. Yet no one knows just what the Administration proposes to do. It professes to be entirely ignorant of the findings of the naval board of inquiry at Havans, and yet preparations continue. It has a well-defined purpose, but it does not avow it. Every

one suspects what that purpose is, but no one really knows. No one objects. No one is excited. Save for the tumble in stocks last week, business is tranquil. All this, because all are now Americans, and all trust " in the discretion of the President." God bless and guide him!

The Free Homestead Amendment Turned Down

Sundry amendments were attached to the Indian bill in the Senate. Among them was one reviving the "free homestead" policy in relation to lands at present under the control of Congress. This, with the other amendments, was promptly rejected by the House, and the bill sent to conference. One of the advocates of the amendment concerning free homes was ex Speaker Grow, the author of the Free Homestead law of 1862. Other advocates were certain leading Democrats, who were committed to its favor by the Chicago platform upon which they were elected. One of these, however, Mr. Bailey, confessed that he did not believe in the principle of "free homes," and was convinced that men should secure them as they secure other property, by their own industry and frugality. Mr. Payne and others pointed out that the condition of the Treasury would not permit the revival of the free homestead policy at this time. The argument was made that its revival would cost the Government, directly or indirectly, more than the sum just voted for national defence. Mr. Dingley declared that if the amendment passed, he should insist that the Government buy the unoccupied lands in his own and other States and donate them to the landless. The amendment was defeated by a vote of 99 to 136.

Naval Increase Abroad

Great Britain has ninety six warships of different classes at present under construction; nevertheless, the estimates for the coming year call for the building of three additional battleships, four armored cruisers, four sloops, the additional enlistment of 6,300 men, and other items which will bring about an expenditure of nearly \$120,000,000. sum equally as large is demanded for the army. Simultaneously the Czar, by a ukase, orders the disbursement of 90,-000,000 rubles (nearly \$70,000,000) from unappropriated cash in the imperial treasury to be expended in building warships. Germany has also greatly increased her naval appropriations, while France is carrying through a program of naval expansion agreed upon some years ago. The reason for these extraordinary additions to the sea forces of these nations is not far to seek. Russia finds herself embarrassed in her designs upon China by the preponderant naval strength in Eastern waters of both England and Japan. Great Britain is determined to maintain her present hold on Chinese trade, and fears that in doing so she may be pitted against both France and Russia. Germany must retain her seizure of Chinese territory, and must develop and extend it. France's ambition is not satisfied with her present possessions in Tonquin. Lust of land and trade jealousies lie back of these extravagant naval budgets.

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THAT the Methodist Episcopal Church is suffering an eclipse of its evangelistic spirit, purpose and power, no intelligent observer can question. The church was born in a phenomenal revival of pure and undefiled religion, and for a century this was its one distinguishing and dominating characteristic. So pro-nounced was this feature that when the writer entered the pulpit, twenty-five years ago, he was made to feel that the one unchangeable test of his efficiency would lie in his ability "to seek and to save that which was lost." If a revival did not constantly attend his ministry he would have reason to question profoundly wnether God had really called him to such sacred service.

As it is always true, "like priest, like people," the membership of the church then shared most heartily in this evangelistic spirit and purpose. If perchance the minister showed even the slightest disposition to falter in this one work of soul-saving, the saints in the church would beckon and spur him on with their exhortations and prayers. The general public well understood this fact. If a soul stricken with sin and guilt desired to go where it could be helped to salvation, the Methodist Church was naturally sought. Full well does the writer remember, though born in another denomination and attending another church, that when at last aroused upon the question of his own need of forgiveness and peace he instinctively sought the Methodist Church as the place where he would be helped to find what he so much desired. This fact is only mentioned in order that the contrast which the last quarter of a century has brought may be the more keenly realized. We neither accuse nor judge our beloved brethren in the ministry. We simply call attention to modifications and transformations in our church which they will concede, and ask that the matter with its inevitable consequences be prayerfully studied.

The evangelistic spirit and temper is vanishing from our pulpits and pews. More than that, there is a positive disinclination to engage in revival work. Prominent and representative laymen manifest a decided disrelish for special revival services. The average minister no longer feels that there is any necessity for explaining why there has not been any revival in his church during the last year or during his last pastorate. The people in our communities do not seek the Methodist Church in order to learn the way of salvation. The Methodist Church is, therefore, no longer the church of the people. Not only is this true, but a large portion of the church recognize these facts and rejoice in them. They believe it is an evolutionary process from what they term a crude and childish religious state to a better, more comprehensive, and even more Christlike condition. It is honestly believed by many that this striking modification is an omen not of harm to the church, but of good. Not a few of our Bishops, educators, and more intelligent ministers heartly share in this view. They are sincerely optimistic concerning the church, and believe that

AN ECLIPSE OF EVANGELISM it never was more Christianitor more seful.

> But that is not the question that we wish to discuss at this writing. The point which we desire to make is that this radical change in the spirit and purpose of the church is the only correct answer to the question concerning the relative decline in our church membership in the year 1897. With due deference to the opinions of the distinguished men who have answered our inquiry. and which are published in this issue, we must differ with those who honestly seek to find a reason for the decline in errors of computation and in the alleged pruning of the lists on account of the action of the last General Conference. If there were errors in computation, why should they be wholly upon one side? We are assured, also, that the explanation which bases the loss upon the action taken by the last General Conference will not stand the test of time and impartial scrutiny. If any doubt this statement, let them inquire of presiding elders and of the ministers generally how far they were governed in making their statis tical reports by this act of the General Conference. Dr. Moore of the Western deals very sanely with this same question in the last issue of his paper. He says: " We were interested in Secretary W. A. Spencer's ingenious explanation before the Preachers' Meeting. He claimed for our statistics - owing to our connectionalism-greater reliability than that of non-connectional bodies; and then advanced this theory to account for ultra conservative membership reports in 1897: Apportionments to the charges for various causes are in proportion to membership. Hence, in close times like the present, pastors would cut down their returns to secure reduced apportionments. But while this may be true, on the other hand a corresponding motive would lead all Conferences dependent upon missionary and other help to make as large a showing as possible; so that these would about balance." And Prof. J. R. Cooke, D. D., editor of the Methodist Advocate-Journal, scouts the idea that 60,000 names, as stated by another writer, have been thus dropped from the church records, and adds: "While we do not believe one syllable of the statement that the church has lost the number alleged, yet it cannot be de nied that there has been a steady down grade tendency for some few years. This tendency, we predict, will continue until there is a radical change in the free and easy way of thinking about the church, all too prevalent in many

No, the unparalleled decline cannot be accounted for in that way. It is a de crease tremendously real and true, and it must be heroically faced some time. Twere much better to face it now. In our judgment we have suggested the only explanation that will stand: The Methodist Episcopal Church is not securing the results of revival effort because it is no longer seeking such results as its one specific and absorbing work. A revival in the church no less than in the individual is the outcome of intense, concentrated effort. Methodism has never been successful in doing many things well, but it has been supremely successful in

doing one thing - seeking the salvation of the multitude. The question which now confronts us is whether it is possible for the church to do many things well and still do the one thing which God called it to do and has so greatly honored it in the doing. What is the real philosophy of evangelism? Is it possible to be both evangelistic and broadly comprehensive? And if not, which is the greater commission - to enlist the Christian soldier, or to train him? Is it worth while to part with our evangelistic birthright in order that these other good things be added unto us? Is not the loss greater than the gain? If the modifications cannot come without the loss of the evangelism, then would it not be better for Methodists to remain the "peculiar people" that they have so long been? After no little anxious deliberation we are constrained to prefer the retention of the evangelistic spirit.

Here again we refer to the influence of the Epworth League upon the church. We are convinced that the League, without in any degree intending it, in trying to do a more comprehensive work, has had a general tendency to divert the ministry and church from its one oldtime purpose of soul-saving, and has thereby been no small factor in bringing about the decline in the membership of our denomination. May God give us His own light upon this painful subject, and, when received, may we face it penitently but bravely!

President of National W. C. T. U.

RS. LILLIAN M. N. STEVENS, who was selected by the late Frances E. Wiliard to succeed her in the presidency of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union in case of her death while she was in office, is a resident of Dover, Maine. Her title was



MRS. LILLIAN M. N. STEVENS.

vice-president at-large. She was elected four rears ago, and the office was created at the time at the suggestion of Miss Willard, who insisted that provision should be made for an emergency like the present mournful one. Mrs. Stevens is well known in Chicago. During the Fair she represented Maine on the board of lady managers. She also found time to have charge of her State's exhibition of charities and correction in the anthropological building. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union has had her services for about twenty-five years. Miss Willard had intrusted a great deal of the active work for many years to Mrs. Stevens, and she steps into the place with ample practical experi-

A Rare Opportunity

T seems but a day since, in these columns, re made a plea for a Methodist hospital, which finally materialized, under the untiring labors of Miss Mary E. Lunn, in what is known as the Deaconess Hospital of this city. Nevertheless some years have come and gone since that day of humble beginnings. Of the alleviation of human suffering and the blessed ministry of comfort which have followed at that Hospital, who shall tell? We are not surprised to learn that the accommodations are far from adequately meeting the urgent demands. Applicants who prefer for personal reasons to be treated at this Hospital are turned away almost daily, seven applying in one day recently who could not be accommodated. There is an imperative need that a spacious site be secured immediately, and that suitable buildings be erected thereon The management, which has always acted with merked caution and prudence, has decided to make this change and enlarge ment at the earliest practicable moment. An eligible lot, finely located, can now be purchased for the very reasonable sum of \$20,000. If some persons blessed with the means, who are looking for an opportunity to help suffering humanity, would supply the funds needed to purchase this land, incalculable good would result. We hope that some of our readers will promptly assume this burden. The following statement from leading physicians and specialists in this city attests the high standing and value of our Deaconess Hospital: -

Knowing personally the work of the Hospital connected with the New England Deaconess Home and Training School on Massachusetts Ave., Boston, which, with only fifteen beds, has been able to give, in two years, to 342 patients efficient and tender care with all the comforts of a Christian home, we, the undersigned, cordially endorsing this institution, and realizing its great need of enlargement in order that it may accommodate a larger number of both pay and charity patients, do sincerely nope that benevolent people will rally to its aid dust now when a very desirable location may be secured if purchased at once, sending all donations to the treasurer, Mrs. J. W. Cushing, 1577 Beacon St., Brookline, Mass.

MAURICE H. RICHARDSON, M. D.

MAURICE H. RICHARDSON, M. D. HORACE PACKARD, M. D. EDWARD REYNOLDS, M. D. GEORGE HAVEN, M. D. JOEL GOLDTHWAIT, M. D. EDGAR GARCEAU, M. D. A. H. POWERS, M. D.

Pundita Ramabai

THE Pandita Ramabai will receive a generous and hearty welcome to Boston this week, as she comes to be present at the meeting of the Association which bears her name. Ramabai was born in a forest named Gunga Mai, on a plateau of the Western Ghats, in April, 1858. Her father was driven into exile for holding and carrying into practice liberal views in regard to child-marriage and the education of women. When Ramabai. the sixth child, was of age to learn, her father was too old and infirm to teach her. The family at this time began making holy pilgrimages. At four o'clock every morning Ramabai's mother would call her and give her lessons until six o'clock, then she would prepare the morning meal for all, after which the family would begin another day's march. On these pligrimages Ramabal learned from her mother not only the common branches of her education, but also to read and speak the Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Guzerathi and Sanscrit languages. At the age of fifteen she was left an orphan, and as a means of livelihood took to lecturing on feeducation, her brother acting as guardian.

At twenty years of age Ramabai was married to a scholarly man, "one who," she affirms, "thought as I did in everything." Their married life was a happy one, but was of short duration, lasting only nineteen

months, when she was left a widow with a young babe. This sudden and sad change drove her to literary work, and from the sale of her books she was enabled to carry out a long desired purpose to visit England. Then she came to the United States and here told the pathetic story of the sufferings of Hindu



PUNDITA RAMABAI.

womanhood and especially of Hinou widows, with such effect as to greatly impress all who heard her, the interest resulting in the formation of the "Ramabai Circles," which have largely raised the money to enable her to carry on her great work in India. Prof. Max Muller called her "one of the most remarkable women of the century." Our readers should hear her while on this visit to our country if they have opportunity to do so.

PERSONAL

- Hon. and Mrs. Alden Speare, of Newton Centre, are at Palm Beach, Fla.
- Bishop McCabe is to preach the annual sermon, June 12, at Drew Seminary for Young Women, Carmel, N. Y.
- The Irish Ohristian Advocate reports that the venerable William Arthur is apparently in stronger health than he has been for years past.
- Rev. Luther Freeman, of Newton Centre, accepts the invitation to become the pastor of Chestnut St. Church, Portland, subject to the appointing powers.
- Prof. R. G. Moulton, Ph. D., of the University of Chicago, the editor of the Modern Reader's Bible, is a brother of the late William Fiddian Moulton, D. D.
- Rev. James H. Bond, formerly presiding elder of the Plattsburg District, and well known throughout the Troy Conference, died, March 8, in Keeseville, N. Y.
- Prof. Borden P. Bowne, D. D., has yielded to the urgent request that he reply to Dr. Mudge's paper, and will do so at the regular session of the Boston Preachers' Meeting, March 21. The public will be welcomed.
- Rev. Dr. E. H. Dewart, former editor of the Christian Guardian of Toronto, has been elected member of the provincial parliament of Ontario from Toronto, North, by thirty majority, over one of the strongest members of the Conservative party.
- Rev. Dr. David Morton, secretary of the Board of Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, since its organization sixteen years ago, died, March 9, of blood poisoning after three days' illness. A scratch on a finger while taking a book out of a bookcase last Saturday made the wound which caused death.
- Rev. A. H. Herrick writes from Jacksonville, Fia., under date of March 7: "I am much improved in health, and expect to be

in better condition!than before my illness, because of this long rest. Intend to return week after next."

- Rev. S. M. Dick, Ph. D., is invited to become the next pastor of Mathewson St. Church, Providence, and has accepted subject to the approval of the appointing powers. Dr. Dick has been pursuing special studies in this city for some time, and is at present supplying a Congregational Church in Lowell.
- At the regular annual meeting of the Beacon Association of Boston University Miss Mary A. Dorchester, the daughter of Rev. Dr. Daniel Dorchester, Jr., of Christ Church, Pittaburg, Pa., received the unanimous choice for the position of editor-inchief of *The Beacon*, the leading college paper in the University.
- Mrs. Calvin Tarbell, of Lawrence, died at her home in that city, March 7, aged 80 years. Two daughters survive her Mrs. William Shackford, of Lawrence, and Mrs. Taylor, wife of Rev. C. W. Taylor, of Salisbury. Mrs. Tarbell, familiarly known to many as "Mother" Tarbell, was a woman of pronounced religious experience and a stanch advocate of the doctrine of holiness. She was a member of Garden St. Church, that city, an original member of the W. C. T. U., and was active in many departments of Christian work. She will be especially missed at Hedding Camp-ground, East Epping, N. H., where she had spent many summers.
- -In examining the appointments of the Baltimore Conference, as they appear in last week's Baltimore Methodist, we note that Rev. Frank Bristol, D. D., is appointed to Metropolitan Church, Washington; Hugh Johnston, D. D., First Church, Baltimore, to which the late Dr. W. N. Brodbeck was invited; Dr. L. T. Townsend, associate editor Baltimore Methodist; and Dr. G. H. Corey, lecturer in ethics and Biblical literature in Dickinson College. As the name of Rev. T. P. Frost, D. D., does not appear in the list, we presume that he is to be transferred to the Newark Conference and stationed at St. Paul's, that city, as he was long ago invited to become its pastor. And later we learn that Rev. F. B. Harvey, son-in-law of Dr. L. B. Bates, supplying at Graniteville, is transferred to the New England Confer-
- We are pained to learn of the death of Rev. Edward Barrass, D. D., of Toropto, which occurred, March 6, as the result of a stroke of paralysis. Dr. Barrass, who was born in Durham, England, in 1821, was an able and honored minister in the Methodist Church of Canada. He was a prolific author and had written several excellent volumes. He was a valued correspondent of this and other religious weeklies. He had been some time upon the regular editorial staff of the Christian Guardian. While it was never our privilege to meet him personally, yet we had enjoyed for years a pleasant personal correspondence with him. A wife, one son and two daughters survive him.
- Rev. W. M. Newton, pastor at Waterbury, Vt., was elected principal of Montpalier Seminary by the trustees at their meeting, March 4. Mr. Newton accepts the position, and will take charge at the close of the Conference year. The Argus of Montpelier speaks of him as follows: " Mr. Newton is a man of pleasing personality and will make a worthy successor of Dr. Smith. He poss executive ability, which is always required in the management of a school or college. During Mr. Newton's pastorate in Waterbury he has made hosts of friends among all classes and denominations, and will be greatly missed in the town." Mr. Newton is a graduate of Randolph Normal School, also of the institution to which he is called, and of Wesleyan University. He is 34 years of age. We congratulate both Mr. Newton and the friends of the school.

— Mrs. Joseph Cook, of Newton Centre, is bereaved in the death of her father, Deacon Willis Hemingway, of New Haven, Conn., who recently celebrated his eightieth annivarsary.

- George Müller, of Bristol, England, so long known as the founder of the Orphan Home at Ashleydown, which he claimed was supported financially in response to prayer, died in London, March 10, in his 93d year. He was born in Prussia in 1805. in 1829 he went to London, where he studied Hebrew and Chaldee, with the view to becoming a missionary to the Jews. Settling at Teignmouth he became the minister of Ebenezer Chapel. In 1830 he married Mary Groves and found in her a spiritual enthusiasm which led him to reliance upon faith and prayer a the only proper means of gospel work. He soon abolished pew rents, and relied upon voluntary contributions through an offering box in the chapel. The Springfield Republican says: "It never occurred to Müller, or to those who have used this experience of his as a proof of the power of prayer as it has occurred to others looking for natural causes - that his announcement of his exclusive reliance on that power was in the nature of an advertisement, and that the contributions were brought about by natural and not supernatural means."

BRIEFLETS

March 20 will be officially observed by the W. C. T. U. as memorial Sunday for Miss Willard.

The following letter from a preacher within the bounds of the New England Conference is characteristic of many received: "I thank you sincerely for the rich treat you have given in the dear old HERALD of the 9th inst. The reminiscences of 'Father' Taylor by Rev. J. W. F. Barnes are well worth the price of a year's subscription. Again I thank you, both for myself and the subscribers of my charge."

Chicago University is passing through an experience not unlike that of Boston University. The number of young women in the undergraduate departments of that institution has steadily increased, till the proportion is 48 per cent. of young women to 52 per cent. of young men. Should the increase continue at the same rate, the women will greatly outnumber the men in the undergraduate work.

The Baltimore Christian Advocate says, with great wisdom and force: "It is a rule that whatever has value, whether clothes, shoes, or church papers, costs money. Papers, like shoddy breeches and shoes with wooden insoles, can be made at 'cut-rate prices,' but scrutiny develops the dearness of these 'cheap goods.' The best costs an honest price. The church ought to demand a genuine article of high merit and then scorn to 'jew down' the price. 'Never educate downward.' Insist upon superior sermons, choice teaching, faithful work, then pay its worth."

The Universalist Leader of last week has a significant contribution upon "Idie Ministers and Vacant Pastorates." It is stated therein that the denomination has in all 991 parishes, of which 658 have services in charge of the regular ministerial force, and 333 are without such services; slightly over 56 per cent. with, and slightly less than 44 per cent. without. The writer of the contribution is so deeply impressed by such a painful disclosure that he pleads for the inauguration in the denomination of some form of an itinerancy. He asks the churches to agree by vote to accept for a period of two years a pastor to be selected by the Missionary Board, and the ministers to agree to serve

for two years such churches as shall so vote. The editor, in a long leader, frankly bemeans the situation, saying that "322 idle ministers out of 781 starts some grave questions that it would not be unprofitable for our denomination to face." May we suggest that a Methodist creed and itinerancy would admirably fit the exigent need of this denomination?

Dr. Lyman Abbott, in the very excellent series of articles now appearing in the Outlook upon "The Life and Letters of Paul," says: "Baptism was generally by immersion, but it is by no means clear that it was ever by submersion. The earliest picture we have of baptism is one upon the walls of the Catacombs in which John the Baptist and Jesus are represented as standing up to their waists in the River Jordan, while John pours water on the head of Jesus. It is not at all improbable that the earliest form of baptism was one which has utterly gone out of use in our churches — a method of immersion coupled with pouring."

On the evening of March 4 the fourth annual alumni reunion of the East Maine Conference Seminary was held at the United States Hotel, this city. Notwithstanding the unfavorable condition of the weather. about one hundred were in attendance. A reception was given from 6 to 8 P. M. in the parlor of the hotel. Each student of the days that are gone seemed anxious to relate his or her school experience. A banquet followed. W. D. Buck, Erq., as toastmaster, introduced Miss A. M. Wilson and President W. A. Hutchison of the Seminary, ex-President A. F. Chase, and Prof. Knowlton, formerly of the Seminary. President Hutchison spoke briefly of the work of the school This fourth reunduring the past term. now of the past; its induence upon and aid to the Seminary is of the present and of the future.

In the United States Senate on March S. the House bill appropriating \$288 000 for the book agents of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, for the use of their printing house, books, papers, and other property in Nashville, Tenn., by the army in 1864-5, was taken up, and, after discussion, was pas In the course of the debate Senator Platt of Connecticut argued that, as the beneficiaries of the bill were notoriously disloyal, and as the property was situated in a disloyal centre, the Government was under no legal responsibility in the matter. Senator Hoar replied that that doctrine had been deliberately set aside and the contrary policy established in the case of the William and Mary College in Virginia, and since then in various other cases where compensation was made for the property of religious, charitable, or educational institutions taken and used by the Government in time of war, and his advocacy for the passage of the bill carried the approval of the Senate. Lodge also supported the bill.

REORGANIZATION OF BOSTON METHODISM

THE presentation of the above subject by Rev. C. A. Littlefield at the Boston Preachers' Meeting, March 6, awakened so much interest that we present the following abstract of his paper. Mr. Littlefield said, in part:—

"There are three pressing needs of our local Methodism—a well-defined policy, a better arrangement of our presiding elders' districts, and commanding leadership. Without these we are an army without organization, without a purpose, without a general. We cannot project ourselves upon the foe with any force, certainty or concert of action.

"Our first and most pressing need is official

leadership. We first look for this to our Bishops; but here we find but little encouragement, for as a rule our Bishops are not sders of local church interests. reasons for this. If one has not the power or resources of a leader, then he fails if he attempts to exercise such a function. other may have power to become a leader in one locality, and not in another. We therefore advocate that our General Conference shall not only determine the place of episcopal residence, but shall also appoint Bishop and govern the appointment by the same rigid rules of fitness that are wisely applied to preachers. In this way only can the first step be taken towards suitable leadership on the part of our Bishops. And then, too, it is our deep conviction that our Bishops should localize themselves more than they do. An episcopal residence ought to be more than a habitation among congenial surroundings from which one sallies forth to go over the church. It ought to be the place where his personality and power are chiefly to be felt. And when occasionally he opens his heart, we should find the burden of some local interests in it as well as those of un known or otherwise supported causes norta. south, east and west of us. We need a competent man; a man adapted to his environment; one willing to identify himself with local interests and able to become a local force. His hand should be upon every great force, and he should stand behind every great movement. He should have an office at some central point and should at proper times be accessible alike to preachers and laymen. He should discuss every leading question and be able to treat it in such a masterly manner as to command a hearing for his church and to inspire our preachers to follow. He should, in no unimportant sense, be a leader and a commander to our people.

"And then, with leadership, we must have better organization, which will enable us also to have a more sharply defined policy for our Boston Methodism. We do not mean more organization, but better organization, which in the end shall give us fewer societies and simpler and more direct and effective methods of work. To accomplish this we must first have such readjustment of districts as shall give us a district including Greater Boston. The New England Conference is well adapted to this. The most important principle which ought to govern the division of a Conference into districts is that which conserves the unity of a given locality, recognizing a centre about which other communities naturally group themselves, or, as is sometimes the case, a group of smaller centres no one of which clearly commands the others. Springfield is one centre, Worcester another, Boston a third, and the smaller cities and towns that cluster about the eastern corner of our Conference make a natural group by themselves. Such a division would help Boston immensely and not interfere with well-proportioned districts in the western, central and eastern sections of the Conference. Boston and its dependent municipalities practically form one. Their interests converge upon a common centre. Their problems, whether political, material or religious, are similar. Their park system, their system of drainage, their water supply, are one, and soon their police system will be one doubtiess, and some time they will be one municipality. The trend is unmistakably towards a union of interests. If there are certain municipal interests of a material or political nature whose effect is to draw a half-dozen cities and towns together until they shall be under one administration, then there are religious and sociological and civic and philanthropic and missionary interests that are germane to these same municipal-The most successful treatment of these would demand that they also should come under one administration, and be considered as problems that give to that district

its marked individuality.
"Our present division of Boston into parts of three districts undoubtedly tends to sepa rate, disintegrate and weaken where we nee to unify and strengthen. When we have put Greater Boston into a district by itself, it is possible to see how our problems may be more clearly defined, how a policy for the whole district may begin to emerge, and how then a leader may have a field and a work worthy of his supremest power. He can then marshal all the local forces of Methodism as a general marshals his army, and with an intelligent plan and purpos project them upon the foe. Under our present conditions, without leadership, without a clearly defined policy, without such a divi-sion of districts as the times suggest, we are not using our resources to the best advantage. Money expended is not bringing its fullest possible return. Men ordained to the ministry are not able to attain the highest results of their efforts. This ought not so to The most distressing losses of war are not those of honest battles well planned and valiantly fought, though lost, but thos where brave men fell and where the army suffered defeat because 'somebody blun-Objections may be raised Greater Boston district, but we believe th can all be answered to the satisfaction of all earnest men unbiased in their judgment. Changes have been made before; they can be made again.

"But when the new district comprising Greater Boston is organized, then the presiding elder must study it. Two official visits a year to the churches are enough — better than four. The rest of the time can be spent to better advantage in studying the field, organizing its work, and alreating it to a common purpose. To do this efficiently he will need the counsel of the Bishop, under whose watchful eye everything should pas in review, and he will need the couns our earnest laymen interested in every phase of local Methodism. To meet the latter need we would greatly enlarge the function of the district stewards, making them more of an advisory board or senate. This could be done by adjourning from time to time. They, like the elder, should study the field. They should weigh every force of our local Methodism. They should define the field and determine the function of every local organization. If the result were less organizations, it would most likely be more work accomplished and a much stronger impression nade on the community. No new organization should come into being without their consent, it it hoped for support. should simplify our work, make clear our purpose, and unify our efforts.

"Our argument, then, is that we need such reorganization of our official supervision as shall give us (1) a commanding leadership, (2) a well-defined policy, (3) a district that shall include interests and problems that are common, (4) a presiding elder who is a master of his field, (5) an advisory board which shall determine what agencies shall be employed to effect given ends; and then, when we have these, (6) a concerted, steady and aggressive movement forward."

Mr. Littlefield had also addressed to several prominent representative laymen the following inquiry, soliciting their opinion and judgment upon the proposition:—

"I shall advocate a presiding elder's district to include what may be regarded as Metropolitan or Greater Boston. The district would include such cities and towns as have many social, sociological and religious questions in common. I would be glad if, as a business man and a layman, you would write me your opinion whether or not such an arrangement would be better than the present division of the city into parts of

three districts. You need not write at length, but enough to clearly state your judgment."

Brief replies in approval of the proposition were received and read from George E. Atwood, Everett O. Fisk, C. R. Magee and J. E. Blakemore. Albert M. Williams, in his reply, said:—

"My opinion on this matter is of little value to you. I believe Boston Methodism needs a general shake-up all along the line. We have many earnest Methodists, but thes are among the very busy pastors and laymen, who are doing all in their power for the good of the whole church of God. As to readjusting the districts, I would say that no one man in my opinion can successfully carry on the work in the so-called Greater Boston. think a change of benefit could be made in re-arranging the ground so as to make the circuit more compact. A presiding elder sary adjunct properly worked is a very nece to the Conference work, and 'his lot is not a happy one.' We always think the other fellow has an easy thing and we would do so and so; the best way is to put ourselves, if possible, in his place and then judge of the work in a practical way. I believe in progressive work, but there are other matters, to my faind, pertaining to the presiding elder's work that need revision far more than the mere changing of the districts."

O. H. Durrell wrote:-

"Soon after I became interested in our City Missionary Society I became firmly convinced that there ought to be a change made in the limits of our presiding elders' districts. In these days of evolution, with great changes taking place in our centree of population, it is very evident that the cities are to be the determining factors in our future civilization. Just as the spokes radiate from and centre in the hub of a wheel, so it is with our large cities and their influence over their immediate neighborhood, as well as the interests of the suburbs centering again in the cities.

"The great problems which confront all religious denominations are in the large cities, and the wisdom of our Catholic brethren is seen in placing their bishops in these powerful centres.

" Our New England Conference, to a certain extent, in the relation of the churches to the pastor and the pastor to the churches, is a business organization, although we someee pa nful evidence to the contrary, where, for the sake of the man, he is sent to a charge for which he is known to be unfit, or where the request of an influential committee of laymen is granted through pure policy, although it is known that in some other charge this pastor could do more efficient work. Looking at the matter, then, from a business standpoint, with an aim to make Methodism as strong as possible in our State, I can but feel that it would be good judgment to divide the New England Conference into three districts, drawing a circle around Boston, Worcester and Springfield, thus creating three metropolitan districts named the Boston District, the Worcester District and the Springfield District; and while this might make the presiding elders a little more expense and a little more inconvenience in circling their districts, yet this would bear no comparison to the gain that would come.

"These districts created, there would be no clashing of interests, no divided responsibility, no placing of weak men on one side of the city and strong men on the other side, because perchance the two sides may be in two presiding elders' districts; but the interests of the city and the suburbs as a whole could be planned for as it is impossible to do in the present way of districting the State.

"I believe, also, that the office of the presiding elder can be made a great deal more

effective than it is at the present time. To that end I would abolish the second and third quarterly conferences, thus giving time for the presiding elders of each of these three metropolitan districts of our New England Conference to study the interests of the denomination, laying plans for the strengthen-ing of our churches. Then, the time thus gained could be devoted to the churches in the greatest need, for emergencies are constantly arising. It would mean so much to some of our weak churches in financial difficulties if the presiding elder could spend a week with them, cheering the brethren, helping solve the difficulties, and assisting in raising money for the liquidation of the deficit. here is a church planning for a new edifice Let the presiding elder spend a week or two with that particular church, giving the benefit of his experience and judgment, assisting the brethren in raising money for the church building. Or it may be that at some other point in the district a new society is being planned for, and yet the wisdom of the elde would see that churches enough of other denominations already exist, and if a Method ist society were organized and a church built it would mean a weak, struggling church, each year appealing for aid. Under thes stances the judicious advice of residing elder would show to the handful of brethren that their policy in the matter was misguided, and that it would be better for em personally and for the church at large to unite, at least for the time being, with some of the other evangelical churches. In some other point in the district there is a marked religious interest. Let the elder come to the assistance of the pastor and encourage and strengthen him in the extra meetings that are being held, and in that special way the spiritual interests of our churches can be wonderfully helped.

"If these lines of work, as well as many others that suggest themselves, were carried out, I am sure that those churches not needing the assistance of the presiding elder would gladly pay their apportionment even if the elder were not seen at their church except during the brief time that he is holding the first and fourth quarterly conferences, for the very reason that he was thus rendering such valuable service to other churches in the district.

"In other words, I should look upon the presiding elder as a sort of resident bishop, his diocese his district, and, clothed more than is now possible with the dignity of the office and the responsibility of leadership made so by the concentrating of interests in the metropolitan districts, I believe there would be gain come even beyond our most sanguine expectations.

"To sum up: It these districts were thus created, we would see Methodism becoming stronger instead of weaker, there would be an enthusiasm come to the rising generation of laymen which would bind them together more strongly in the interests of the denomination, vantage points in the growing parts of the cities would be taken advantage of, weak churches would be made stronger, strong churches made even more efficient, city evangelization made more successful, and Methodism would stand, as it ought, in the front rank of religious denominations."

Growing out of the interest awakened by this discussion, a committee with power to add to their number was appointed to report to a future Preachers' Meeting a specific and practical plan in harmony with the propositions made. The committee consists of Rev. W. T. Perrin, president Boston Preachers' Meeting, George E. Atwood, president Boston Missionary and Church Extension Society, and Rev. C. A. Littlefield, superintendent. The committee hopes to be able to report by March 21.

ODISM

THE CASE DIAGNOSED

Opinions of Representative Methodists

THE opinions expressed below were received in response to the following letter of inquiry: -

DEAR SROTHER: The Methodist Episcopal Church made a net gain of communicants in the year

1897 of 19,738 1896 of 65,131 1895 of 85 017 1894 of 157,586 1893 of 81,426

The decline in 1897, unparalleled in the history of the church, calls for the most searching and frank investigation. With the purpose of stimulating such prayerful consideration and inquiry, it is our desire to group the views of leading representatives of the church as to the cause of the declension. Will you, therefore, favor us with your opinion at an early date, not to exceed two hundred words?

Faithfully yours.

CHARLES PARKHURST.

J. H. Vincent D. Steele W. A. Quayle J. O. Sherburn W. H. Crawford D. C. Knowles A. B. Leonard W. F. Sheridan the exten J. W. Johnston F. Hamilton H. C. Jennings R. McIntyre C. L. Goodell T. P. Frost D. Dorchester G. E. Reed

J. Galbraith J. Puliman E. H. Hughes J. R. Day W. W. Ramsay D. Brons

> C. J. Little A. J. Kynett

Bishop J. H. Vincent

THERE must have been a mistake in the figures for 1894. There is probably a mistake in 1897. It is amazing how carel some of our preachers are in figures. It may be, however, that there is a quickening of the ethical sense among the brethren; greater carefulness in accepting probationers and in receiving members; greater fidelity in keep-ing the records; less faith put in irresponsible traveling evangelists, etc. Possibly we all put too much stress on "numbers" and have too much confidence in statistics. I feel no anxiety about the apparent decline. It will be a good thing to stir up the church to greater zeal and wisdom. Wisdom is good. It is very good. But it is dead without holy zeal. May the church gain both!

Topeka, Kansas.

Rev. Daniel Steele, D. D.

ASCRIBE the decline in numbers to a decline in the spiritual life of the church through several caus es: -

1. The failure of the pulpit to dwell upon those truths which are productive of a deep spirituality.

2. The decay of piety in the home, the family alter being now the exception and not the general rule.

seeking their conversion.

4 A subtle spirit of liberalism pervading the min'stry and the laity, which regards all men as children of God in the New Testament se and comforts wicked men with ample discourse on the fatherhood of God.

5. The falling away from our pulpits of doctrines promotive of conviction of sin, the law and its sanctions, especially the ever-lasting punishment of the finally impenitent.

The extinction, or moribund condition of the training school for young converts the class-meeting - so that multitudes p r ish through lack of nutriment and care fore the end of six months.

7. The gulf between the church and the es made by pew rents, costly classical music gratifying the cultivated few, instead of congregational singing attractive to the meltitude.

8. The lost spiritual balance in our offi :ial boards, by reason of the diminishing number of class-leaders, is leaving the church in the control of those who were chosen for other reasons than their deep piety.

Milton, Mass.

Rev. William A. Quayle, D. D.

DO not feel qualified to give a wise and DO not reel qualitate to give not have adequate reply to your query, not have ing gone into the statistical question in other than a superficial manner. However, my belief is that this case is not as bad as sppears. Take my own church by way of illustration. Last April we struck off from the statistical exhibit of the church two hundred names, as provided for by the Discipline in an article relating to members whose whereabouts had been unknown for a year or more. What occurred in Independence Avenue Church doubtless occurred in many other churches, so that the felling off is more apparent than real. Our own rate of increase from probation and letter is normal for the current year, and the revival influence in these parts "of Illyricum" has been good and not behind other years.

Kansas City, Mo.

Rev. J. O. Sherburn

MUST say that opinion based upon such data as are mine is of little actual value. Three factors doubtless come into the prob-

First, actual decline. I am not disposed to think this large—less than one per cent. decline from the average of the previous four years, which was about 3.75 per cent. gain. I am still suspicious of the bookkeeping and would loudly second the demand for the most careful scrutiny. There is no lying so damaging as lying arithmetic. In various ways at least three-quarters of one per cent. might thus be charged to error.

nen under the new ruling which allows names of members not known to be left out in the count, it would be very easy to drop two from each hundred.

You are right in suggesting that the mat-ter demands prayerful investigation. We have been delinquent beyond doubt, and should humble ourselves before God. Pastors of all denominations, at least in New England, are finding it more and more difficult to persuade young Christians to unite with the church. The manifest life is so with the church. The feeble that they are positively repelled.

Williamstown, Vt.

President William H. Crawford

THE cause of the decline I do not know. I wish I did know. I hardly dare to look upon the decline as alarming. 1 have been hoping that some one would find a mistake in the figures. If the figures repre-

THE DECLINE IN METH- cou ting the support of sinners instead of the church much humiliation and earnest no one cause can be given for it. The cau-es are many. I should certainly put the following among the number: First, the competition of other denominations as repentatives of aggressive Christianity. Becond, a spirit of worldliness seen in money-Third. getting and society extravagance. the pu ting to of new machinery. Fourth, a spirit of pride and self-sufficiency growing out of the marvelous growth of our denomination. Fifth, the preaching and living of much that is not the Lord Jesus.

Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa.

Rev. D. C. Knowles, D. D.

THIS decline may be attributed to two causes, one constant, the other temporary. The parable of the sower explains the constant cause as hardness of heart, fickleness, and worldliness in the hearers. The temporary cause, we fear, is to be attributed to the sower and the seed. German rationalistic thought is affecting American ministers as never before. Destructive "higher criticism" is bringing forth its legitimate fruit. Many ministers have accepted startling theories respecting the Bible. It is no longer to them the Word of God, but the word of God and man, and they hold very hazy ideas as to which party made the most of it. This theory has sterilized the seed. The result is, the sower sows sparingly and the poor seed perishes from want of vitality. It is very poor seed that teaches that character is the source of salvation. Christian character is the product of salvation, not its source. Salvation must eventuate in character if it be genuine, but Jesus is the only source of it. Rationalism begets this confusion, and many of the educated es are learning to trust in their own righteousness rather than in a mighty Savjour. Our colleges are in peril from such teachings. Pauline faith is being supplanted by doubtful theories. The mass affected by them. Spiritual paralysis grows apace.

We hope it is only a passing mood which will soon die from its own weakness, but, alas! many, we fear, will perish because of it.

Tilton, N. H.

Rev. A. B. Leonard, D. D.

N my opinion the growth of the church has been hindered by, -

1. Too much sensational and too little clean-cut theological preaching. The pulpit is being lowered in many instances to the level of the platform humorist or semi-comic performer, the object of which is mere entertainment and amusement. Under such preaching nobody is convicted of sin, or righteousness, or of judgment, and nobody is converted.

Too much " vain philosophy " in the pulpit and press, and too little of that soulstirring earnestness and enthusiasm which stimulates devotion and causes the heart to glow with love to God and man. Higher criticism and speculation too often take the place of evangelical preaching and sound ex-egesis of the Word of God, and the people are made skeptics and doubters rather than believers

3. Too much selfishness and too little selfdenial among professing Christians - selfishness as seen in the lavish expenditure of money for personal and family indulgences which promote worldliness and tend towards ungodliness, dissipation, and even crime; little self-denial as seen in the meagre sums of money given by well-to-do and wealthy people for benevolent purposes, and the small amount of time devoted by church members to practical Christian work.

4. Too much complicity with corrupt pol-The worldward dift of the church, sent the fact, there ought to be throughout ities and too much of the spirit of compromise with that "gigantic crime of crimes," the rum traffic, and too little courage to se arate from the former or to battle with the latter.

5. Too much dependence upon merely human ability, learning, and effort, and too little upon the presence and help of the Holy Spirit, forgetting that it is " not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts."

New York City.

Rev. Wilbur F. Sheridan

O one fact accounts for the distressing The years '93, '94 and '95 were years of heavy financial burdens and even distress to multitudes. Financial adversity, more than pestilence or war, makes men feel their dependence, and arives them to God. The last year or two times have improved and mer have become more careless about spiritual things.

2. There has been an unusual pruning of church records in this part of the country in the past two years, perhaps to lessen benevolent assessments.

3. In general: Methodism makes proportionately much smaller gains now than formerly because the churches' ideals have changed. This is true especially of our leading churches. Those who control the appointments in such churches do not want soul winning pastors. For a preacher to become known as revivaliatic, even though a strong sermonizer and free from extravagances, is to jeopardize, if it does not destroy, his chances of promotion. The demand is for pastors who are (1) pleasing speakers; (2) socially attractive; (3) politic in handling men and affairs. Soul winning and soulculture are matters of minor consideration. Apollos, and not Paul, is the overwhelming favorite among the churches. Ministers. being human, are apt to shape their methods accordingly.

Pontiac, Mich.

Rev. J. Wesley Johnston, D. D.

THE so-called decline in Methodism is more apparent than real, and while the year's returns are not what we had hoped and expected, nevertheless there is no cause for special alarm.

In the first place, we are working back to the old Methodist idea of every preacher being his own evangelist, and this has interfered somewhat with the immense lists of probationers which some men were wont to report. We are now looking for cases of genuine conversion, when men and women fully and consciously repent of their sins, and intelligently unite with the church. It is a sort of Gideon's army process; hard on the man who worships at the altar of statistics, but in the end it produces something much more important than mere figures for Conference Minutes.

Then, again, our system of making apportionments upon a basis of membership, with its consequent in the "Roll of Honor" idea, has naturally caused a closer scrutiny of the church records and the transfer of the names of non-resident and non-effective members to the uncounted list.

Possibly the strong drift of population toward the great cities where the Methodist Church has relatively less to offer by way of social influence and attraction, may have something to do with the matter.

Middletown, Conn.

Rev. Franklin Hamilton

MONG the reasons for the smaller per-A centage of increase of members for the past year the following seem to me im-

1. Reduction in number of members because of action of the last General Confer-

ence concerning the counting of persons " removed without certificate."

2. Hard times have kept many people away from the church; they have neither clothes to go to church nor money to support it: the struggle for bread has deadened sensibility to spiritual things (see letter of the Bishop of Rochester to his clergy).

Wage-earners and the very poor have been losing conflience in the real interest of the church in them; exacting demands make the poor to feel that the church has more need of their gifts than themselves (see S. Gompers' recent address concerning nonchurchgoing workingmen).

4. Too much legislation and machinery for the simplicity and success of the Gospel; too little study of what the times require in freedom of restraint from the old way of thinking things and the old way of doing things. The Salvation Army is more Methodist than Methodism itself.

5. Too much reliance on periodical revivals; too many indifferent indolent persons after the revival is over. Methodist preachers and church members have not been so successful as if all had been with one accord in one place and the Spirit had given us utterance.

Newtonville, Mass.

Rev. H. C. Jennings, D. D.

DO not see the danger or the menace, as many do, in the lessened increase our church membership. We all know the uncertainty of statistics. My experience with the Epworth League leads me to believe that it is a help in direct evangelistic work rather than a hindrance. My experience as a pastor with a large chapter of the Epworth League was that I could depend on its members for service, as I could not on others. They were true to the Sabbath evening service and to the mid-week prayer meeting. They were in the forefront as revival work ers; and their organization helped toward their efficiency.

Many pastors and official boards, acting on the recommendation of the last General Conference, have pruned their church records largely. Members whose whereabouts are unknown are no longer counted. I know that many such have been marked, "Removed without certificate." The pastor of The pastor of one of our large Chicago churches has said to me within a week that they had just cut off from their roll 140 names with no loss to the church. It is not unreasonable to believe that many thousands of names have been so treated, thus accounting for much of this decline. And this healthful work will go on. There is, too, a great decline in certain revival methods. The irresponsible evangelist, without endorsement, depending on excitement, is no longer in favor. Pastors are doing their own evangelistic work as never before. Perhaps fewer people join the church, but the whole result is more wholesome.

Finally, one of the most useful and whole-

some years of my pastoral life was the one in which I received fewest new members. It was a year following a year of great revival. Pastor and people spent the time in training the probationers in the Christian life, and they succeeded so well that that church has been twice as strong since that time, now ten years ago, as it had been before. I do not believe that 1897 was really as fruitless as the figures would have us believe.

Western Book Concern, Chicago, Ills.

Prof. Charles W. Risheli

SINCERELY hoping that your inquiry may elicit the exact facts, I venture the following statements. There is something suspicious in the fact that in the three years since 1894 there was a decreasing number of ministers, churches and adult baptisms well as net gain in membership. Still, though I cannot take the space necessary to

illustrate it, I do not think the figures show any serious loss in power to win converts. The years 1888-1890 show fewer adult baptisms than the year 1897. Even the years 1891-1893 are but little in advance of 1897 in this re-The adult baptisms generally represent the lowest possible aggregate of gains by profession of faith. In 1897 there were 106,285 of these. Since the net gain the same year was 19,738, the loss by deaths, withdraw-als, etc., must have been 86,527. This is not likely to have been the fact. The losses must be traced in part to other sources. If we suppose that following the action of the General Conference in 1896 some pastors in Conferences reported no members marked on the records as " removed without certificate," we account for the loss of 20,000 from 1895 to 1896. Supposing many pastors in Spring and Fall Conferences to have done the same throughout 1897, the great drop of 45,393 from 1896 to 1897 is accounted for. It is not the net gains, but the actual accessions from probation, which measure the evangelistic effectiveness of a year's work. Wuen. in 1890, we had but 89,452 adult baptisms, we did not suspect the church of having lost its revival power, because that year we had a net gain of 47,504 members. But with 106 265 adult baptisms and a net increase of only 19,-738 members in 1897, we suspect ourselves of having lost our effectiveness as an evangelizing church.

It would not be surprising if for a year or two yet we should show a small net increase owing to the operation of the cause mentioned above. For the facts let us study not net increases, but accessions from probation. I would not ease any one's conscience: but I do not wish to see our church misunderstood. Not for the sake of a better showing in 1898 or 1899, but for the love which Christ bore to men, let us be so diligent that in spite of abnormal losses we shall make a large net gain henceforth.

School of Theology, Boston University.

Rev. Robert McIntyre, D. D.

WHILE our numerical increase in 1897 adds no fuel to denominational pride, it need not shame us. Our church is not dead-hearted, nor is it decadent. Its spirit is as zealous, its devotion as holy, its mind as ready, and its labor as earnest as ever. Our doctrines - the basic half, the warp, of our church life - are the same. Our laity is as loyal and generous. Our ministry, as a whole, has purity, experience, eloquence, learning, the joy of sacrifice, and the skill of executants. The Epworth League has increased our usefulness. This mighty host of youth, girded for service, looking steadfastly into the open heavens whence descends the wavering dove, is a sight to gladden the soul.

I reckon the falling off is in part only apparent. The net gain is about 20,000, which eems small; yet I judge almost as many came into the church last year as in the previous year. A larger number withdrew, were dropped. Why? Because of the continued "hard times." Preachers learn that they are assessed in proportion to reported membership. Money is scarce, so the record is pared to the quick, as each man desires to report collections "all full." Accumulated dead wood is lopped off and the shrunk roster shows a loss which is no loss. Then lack of work through financial depression, or loss of savings through knavery or stupidity of trusted agents, has brought many nigh to poverty. These fall out, saying, "It costs money to be a Meth--as indeed it does. In addition to regular expenses, which in this climate and this extravagant age are heavy, we have one special collection each month, the local charities and neighborhood benevolences, often interest on debt, and care of helpless members; so with tickets for this and that

they are beset, and with cails to help here and there, the church is made an Echo Canyon with the walls reverberating, "Give! Give!" One must give or suffer vexatious comment, and many a godly person, poor but rich in self-respect, drops out of our ranks. This fact, set beside the other, that we have given millions, from whose ranks we once drew part of our membership, into the entire charge of the Salvation Army, will account for any real loss in numbers.

Chicago, Ills.

Rev. Charles L. Goodell

BELIEVE the small gain reported is due to the application of the law enacted by the last General Conference, that members whose residence is unknown should be marked "removed without letter" and not counted. This was my own experience last year. I so marked nearly one hundred names, and our count of membership at First Church suffered to that extent. I have applied the same rule at Hanson Place, and have not counted 209 that were counted last year. Only large additions at these churches saved us from great apparent loss. The presiding elders of this Conference reported a success ful year for 1896, yet the record shows a net loss of 343, while there was a gain of 143 probationers over the year before. This shows that the year had been more successful in converts than the one which preceded it. Twice in the last eighteen years the Meth-odist Episcopal Church has made a worse showing. In 1881 we reported an actual loss of 29,818 members, and in 1883 a gain of only 19.093. I believe next year we will show more than the average gain.

I am anxious for greater victories, but I believe there are other causes than loss of spiritual power which account in part for the apparent small gain.

Brooklyn, N. Y.

Rev. T. P. Frost, D. D.

Pirst, change in the opinions of our age on Biblical, theological and social questions. Our church fails to maintain harmonious adjustment to the changing conditions. Some Methodists go too far with the new views; many are not sufficiently progressive; others try to put the new wine into old bottles.

Second, the discrepancy between standards of conduct, and conduct, vows and practice. Awakened persons who would naturally and preferably come to us may be divided into three classes: (1) thoughtful and devout persons prepared to take our vows and keep them; (2) thoughtless or conscienceless persons who easily take the vows and break them; (3) thoughtful and cons entious persons unprepared to keep all the vows, and who therefore will not take them. The strictness and specificalness of our vows. and the looseness of our enforcement of obligations taken, admit to the church the best and the poorest in character and shut the rest out.

Moreover, the church is losing its life by trying to save it, seeking the glory of "Methodism," trying to save communities, families, dollars and other things to "our beloved Methodism" rather than to the kingdom of God. Thereby we lose in power if not in numbers.

Baltimore, Md.

Rev. Daniel Dorchester, D. D.

As to the alleged relative decline in the membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in the year 1897, it does indeed seem strange, in view of the average annual increase of 97,290, in each of the four previous years (1893, 1894, 1895 and 1896), especially as, so far as I have been able to observe or learn, there was nothing exceptionally

unfavorable in the condition of the church during the aforesaid year.

Speculation upon this matter can be indulged with the greatest ease, and many are doing so, but with no satisfactory results. I will not attempt it, for I am cortain that such theorizing starts from unfounded assumptions, so far as I have noticed it, in this particular case. It seems to me that Rev. Crandail J. North, presiding elder of the New Haven District, in the Christian Advocate of Feb. 24, gives a satisfactory explanation in the following lines:—

"The great drop in the figures was doubtless due to the fact that in reporting the membership of their churches the pastors obeyed the new law passed by the General Conference of 1896, that members marked on the church records, 'removed without certificate,' should not be counted in making up the reports sent to the Conference."

According to the U.S. Census for 1890, the Methodist Episcopal Church (North) had 25,861 church organizations or pastoral charges. Suppose four names were dropped from each of these charges, for the reason specified, tais would cause a decrease of 103,444 in the members reported.

Meirose, Mass.

President George Edward Reed

ESPONDING to your inquiry as to my opinion of the cause of the astonishingly small net gain of communicants in the Methodist Episcopal Church in the year 1897, and the relatively small increase in the years 1896, 1895 and 1893, permit me to say that I presume that the great failing off in the year 1897 was due partially to the new method ordered by the General Conference as to the course to be pursued with respect to members removing without letter.

But, after making due allowance for this, the discouraging fact still confronts us that the gain of the caurca in these later years has been in no sense commensurate with its vast constituency and the enormous force of workers at its command.

Years ago, ofter careful study, I was impressed with the very small proportion of the vast numbers reported as having been received on probation eventually becoming members of the church, and I believe that here the root of the difficulty is to be found. Somebow, during what is known as the period of probation " - in my judgment, a period altogether too long - we apparently lose about one half of those reported as having taken the initial step. Recently, while serving as pastor in the city of Brooklyn, I discovered that during the eight years preceding my second pastorate in the said city, while thousands were reported as having been received on probation and other thousands as having joined by letter, the net gain to the church was under three hundred, and nearly two hundred of the said gain was in connection with a single church of that great city.

This is a matter, it seems to me, to which the spiritual overseers of our church in particular, the Bishops and presiding elders, should give the closest study and the most thorough investigation. Possibly a larg.r attention on the part of our chief officials to the purely spiritual interests of our Methodism would result in great good to the entire church.

Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa.

Rev. John Galbraith, Ph. D.

PON comparison, it will be seen that there has been a steady decline in the number of communicants for the last three years. In 1895 the decline was 72,569. In 1896 the decline was 19,886. And in 1897 it was 45,393. Thus it will be seen that the decline began in 1895. It escaped attention until it became so startling in 1897. The

cause of the decline, to my mind, is twofold: --

1. The various benevolent societies, with their iniquitous "honor rolls," are bringing such a pressure to bear on the churches to raise their full apportionment, that both churches and ministers are sensitive about being gazetted as illiberal and unfaithful. They are seeking relief. They find a partial relief in the Disciplinary enactment of the last General Conference which prohibits reporting members who have left the charge without taking certificates. The pruning of church-records is one cause of the decline. In that case the decline would be more apparent than real.

2. Another cause of the decline is to be found in the theological schools, and the pulpits. We are so afraid of believing too much, that our teaching and preaching has not the positiveness necessary for successful evangelistic work. Our skeptical criticism is cutting the nerve of evangelism. And this cause of the decline is much more alarming than the pruning of church records. Hope is to be found in the fact that the pendulum has begun to swing backward; and, in this case, the backward swing is the progressive swing.

Dorchester, Mass.

Rev. Joseph Pullman, D. D.

Causes for decline in the ratio of accessions may arise from: -

1. Financial stringency. The last year pinched the churches more than any year of our long panie. I know of no church in these parts that has not been discouraged and depressed, and Methodist churches feel such conditions more than most others. This is temporary.

2. We are depending on out-worn and aged methods of high-pressure revivalism, and are neglecting methods of continuous and painstaking Christ'an nurture. Our staccato paatorates work mischief here.

3. The uncertainty as to what to expect in a Methodist church relative to the pastorate and the shifting methods of different pastors, together with aggressive and extravagant revivalism, has a tendency to drive from us a certain class of staid and thoughtful people. I have personal knowledge of several persons in this city who give these reasons for having left us.

4. The trend of the times toward a worldly indifference would be felt early in our churches. The church as an institution has a feeble hold on the younger people of this generation. They do not go to church and have little conscience about the Lord's day as a holy day. The deplorable inadequacy of the Sunday-school for the work put upon it looms into view in this connection.

5. I fear that we are not doing as well as some other churches to make strong homes, to culture home character and a vigorous home religious life. Family prayer is passing away. Here again our itinerancy comes into view.

Bridgeport, Conn.

Rev. Edwin H. Hughes

T is not credible that we should have secured an increase of but one person throughout the year for each effective minister in the Conferences of the United States, Such inefficiency would have been noted in the year's work and the church would have been smitten with shame. But even those who were traveling over our bounds did not observe that the courch was weakening in its power of evangelization; or, if they did feel this, they did not warn us of our failure. The figures, showing such a decrease of increase, were so wholly unexpected as to be Men read the surprising and shocking. totals in the Year Boot and sa'd to them-selves: "It is not possible!" If our converts had really numbered only about onefourth of the average number received per year in the last ten years, the church could not have failed to be somewhat conscious of its sudden in effectiveness.

The small net increase is probably explained, then, not by a decrease of con sions, but rather by a large increase of those "removed without letter." Our pastors generally become thorough in the cleansing of their rolls of membership. Conversation with many of them will show this. The church of which the writer is pastor reported in the Minutes of 1896 1,024 members; in 1897, after a year of constant and gratifying growth, the Minutes show 865 members. This is but one case, and is doubtless somewhat exceptional in the extent of decrease; but inquiry will show that there was a gen eral response to the order of the General Conference (Discipline, chap. 4, sec. 4, art. 7) that those "removed without certificate and of unknown residence should not be counted in our reports. The strict observance of this rule will work large losses for a few years; but the church will only be stronger because of the removal of these cumberers of our records.

After all this has been said, it may still be confessed that our increase is not what it should be. The quick explanation is very likely to be that "we are losing our revival power;" a more sober explanation will put it that we are depending too much on revival methods alone. Often those in an andience who were converted in a revival are asked to arise. The well-nigh unanimous response is triumphant evidence in favor of revivals. There are not wanting thoughtful persons, however, who, while rejoicing at the wonderful work done in one month of the year, still persist in asking why so few of the audience were converted in the other eleven months! Let us have our increase by revivals; but let us supplement that by the method of constant, face-toface and heart-to-heart work. One person converted and joined to the church by each effective pastor each month would mean an annual increase of 168,000. Add to this the number received in our special revival services, and in spite of deaths, in spite of removals without certificate, in spite of all causes of reduction, we will increase at the rate of 200,000 a year!

Malden, Mass.

Chancellor James R. Day

THE subject is a big one, and the period is too short for safe generalization and accurate conclusions. The showing from 1894 to 1897 inclusive is startling. There seems to have been over 45,000 less communicants added during the past year than in the year before, and about 20,000 less in '96 than in '95, and over 72,000 less in '95 than in '94. This year's showing is nearly 138,000 less than that of the year 1894. You see there is an alarming decrease steadily for three years.

I do not dare to think of the possible es. It would not be wise perhaps for me to say some of the things that these figures have been a pastor, compel me to think. and therefore it is impossible for me to be "an accuser of the brethren." One cannot read, however, the story of Asbury and Lee, of Strawbridge and Garretson, of Ware and Benjamin Abbott, and hosts of other such heroes of the faith, without feeling that in some way we have gotten far off from the spirit and intent of their time. We are naking a church and church officers. They were saving sinners. We prophesy of our brilliant young men a future as college presidents, or editors, or missionary secretaries, ok agents, and finally the bishopric. They measured their ministerial neophytes by the rule of evangelism. Young men then were of no use if they could not lead men to

Christ. Their objective point was not an office, but the judgment, where each was to say, "Here am 1 and those whom Thou hast given me." Those who were given to them were both the seals of their commission and the jewels in their immortal crowns.

Is it fashionable now to be a revivalist pastor? Is that one of the first qualifications, to say nothing about the chiefest, ought by church committees looking for a minister? What has happened? Have we got the spirit of the world, and is its glamor a film upon our eyes, and is the world catching the spirit of a degenerate church? Are the blind leading the blind? Do not charge me with pessimism. I am an anxious inquirer. God called back His prophets again and again for correction. It was the hardest task of Jesus to make His disciples see that His kingdom was not of this world. To lose sight of that fact is to lose our power to win men. In the position which I have occupied for nearly four years I have been startled by the inquiries that come to me from young ministers as to the material prospects for young men seeking admission to Conferences. The matter of salary, parsonage and congenial work seems to be uppermost in the thought. This perhaps does not come with very good grace from a man who has been so abundantly favored in all of these material features of the ministry. But I can say, at least, it was not the way I was started by the grand old church of twenty-five years ago among the hills of Maine. The old heroes, of whom two of the greatest yet linger, Randall and Allen, preached to me the gospel of "This one thing I do," and taught me that that one thing was to win men and that it was the greatest test of the ministry.

Syracuse University, N. Y.

Rev. W. W. Ramsay, D. D.

T is remarkable that the small increase of membership in the Methodist Episcopal Church was not suspected till revealed by the statistics for 1897. The usual number of revivals, attended with the usual success, seems to have been reported. Therefore a diminished number of accessions will not account for the discouragement. Indeed, it is probable that no one cause can monopolize this responsibility.

have wondered if the spirit of loyalty in Methodism is equal to the spirit of catholicity. It must be apparent to every pastor that there is a peculiar ease with which Methodists transfer their membership to other denominations. A gentleman recently mentioned to me a church of another denomination in an Eastern city which now contains members representing a million of money received from a neighboring Methodist Church in which there had been neither sion nor unusual defection. To a greate or less degree this has been taking place for many years in other cities. There must be a on for this easy migration. But we are not to mistake the occasion for the caus

We are so accustomed in the pulpit, as well as in practical work, to emphasize our recognition of the worth of our sister denominations, to eulogize ourselves for holding so many precious truths in common with them. our people soon come to the conclusion that denominationalism is narrow, and that church membership is a matter to be regulated by domestic convenience or social rela-And thus by our emphasis of a great and broad virtue, we are weakening an easential loyalty. Here, as in the natural force the centripetal must equal the centrifugal power, or the body will leave its orbit. O people must be instructed in the doctrines of our church with more than an occasional glance at the unreasonable and unscriptural teachings they antagonize. In this way the conviction will be implanted and strengthened that to leave the one denomination and

go to another, is an inconsistency for which trivial excuses cannot atone.

This spirit of loyalty may be encouraged by the use of the catechism, by instruction in the children's classes, by a wise employment of the young people in the Epworth League, by a studied emphasis on Methodist doctrines in the Sunday-school, as well as by a fearless presentation from the pulpit of those great inspiring doctrines upon which our church insisted in those days when its loyalty was equal to its catholicity.

Philadelphia, Pa.

Rev. Dillon Bronson

Churches with average congregations under one hundred, by count, reported in the Minutes as having 300 to 500 members, I have thought the temptation to increase the reported number was too great for many of us pastors, and have never believed in the claim to twenty million actual adherents. The decrease may mean that a baptism of the Spirit has so come upon us that we have had grace enough to make a healthful reduction in the reported membership, which is a very hopeful sign.

Again, we seem to be unable to hold a certain class of people owing to our peculiar restrictions, etc. As Methodists become wealthy and puffed up with knowledge (?) the children leave us, and perhaps the dear old Methodist mother must always play Leah for the Rachels of other denominations. Our loss is their gain, and it is more pleased to give than to receive.

Again, we seem just now to be passing through a transition era. We are in the trough of the wave and everything, including the church, is at a temporary standstill. It is a time to make better members rather than more members; and if we stand by our guns and do honest hard work, lifting up Christ in our daily living, there will soon be a turn in the tide and perhaps we may see the largest gain ever known, in '98 or '99. Even the largest loss of any denomination would not leave our statistic worshipers without something of which to boast.

Salem, Mass.

Rev. Everett S. Stackpole, D. D.

THE decreased increase of Methodism may be due to several causes: —

1. In the growth of everything temporary a limit must some time be reached. Methodism as such has no pledge of immortality. We hope it will change to something better; if not, something better will crowd it out of existence. We are approaching our limit in numbers. New England Methodism has been struggling to hold its own for some years.

2. We had once a superior type of doctrine to offer, and we thus drew strong-minded men from the Calvinistic communions and from the ranks of the indifferent who were awakened by the novelty and reasonableness of truths preached by us. Methodism has now nothing better to proclaim than is preached every Sunday from the pulpits of many other denominations. Indeed, it is to be feared that Methodism is lagging behind in doctrinal progress, and that adherence to some old forms of statement and theological opinions is repelling rather than attracting records.

3. Methodism was organized as a band of revivalists. We have ceased largely to be that. We are trying to be educators without the necessary appliances to compete with other denominations. To be educators, to build up strong, large churches, we need a better educated ministry and the removal of the time limit. Under the present régime our educated and well-to-do families will continue to do as they have been doing many

years — abandon Methodism for Congregationalism or Episcopalianism on slight provocation. Thus far we are a fitting school for those communions.

4. We are abandoning the circuit system and all that is vital to the itinerancy, while holding on to its form. With a pastoral term of five years and the appointments made practically by "calls" of the people, our presiding elders and Bishops are useless and burdensome machinery. Here in New Engiand especially the independence of the local church is more and more in evidence. We need some very thorough changes and modifications in our polity and a return to the evangelistic spirit.

 I believe your editorial on the young people's societies was timely and pointed out one cause of decline.

We have too much machinery and too little power.

Auburn, Me.

President Charles J. Little

HAVE no explanations to offer, but here are some facts that suggest one. I choose the Conferences at random.

1. In 1895 the four Spring Conferences of New York State reported 20,483 probationers, and yet in 1897 they report only 6,784 members more than in 1895. Meanwhile they lost about 5,500 by death. This would make their increase for two years about three fifths of their probationers for one year!

2. In 1895 the six Conferences of Missouri and Kansas reported 24,189 probationers. In 1897 they report only 10,424 members more than in 1895, although they lost only about 2,600 by death. In other words, their increase of members for two years was just a little more than half of their probationers in one year!

3. The probationers in all the Spring Conferences of 1896 number 186,455. In 1897 these Conferences had 58,735 more members than in 1895. In two years the loss of members by death was 34,000. That is to say, the increase of members for two years does not equal the number of probationers in one year.

it looks to me, I confess, like too much revivalist and too little pastor.

Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Ills.

Rev. A. J. Kynett, D. D.

PERMIT me to suggest, —

1. That probably the figures for 1897 are exceptional on the one side as those for 1894 are on the other.

There are periods of pruning as well as periods of harvesting. This suggestion may apply to both years above named. The only safe way to ascertain the trend is by striking the average for two or more years at different intervals.

Whether we take the figures year by year separately, or strike the average, as suggested, it is equally certain that we are not making the gains possible to our church and incumbent upon our workers. Your sug gestion of "the most searching and frank investigation "should be welcomed on all . From my standpoint, especially identified with financial and benevolent work, and, in recent years, with temperance reform and the irrepressible conflict with the liquor power, I connect the question of growth in membership with the financial and reform tory work of our church. Comparing the statistics as to membership with those showing Conference collections for Church Extension, both of which specially involve the work of pastors, I find a steady decline from \$154,252.85 in 1893 to \$118,079.60 in 1896 — a decline of \$36,173.25. The year 1897 marked an increase from 1896 of \$1,594.75, but the neral parallel with all its suggestions remains th

Since 1893, through our Permanent Com-

mittee on Temperance and Prohibition, we have sought to unite our forces with others for saloon suppression, but until recently with slow progress and sporadic results, and the collections for this cause, authorized by the General Conference, have been almost entirely neglected. I am forced to the conviction that the radical difficulty lies with the spirit of apathy as to aggressive work that rests upon the great body of our ministers and people. The really earnest workers who, on the special lines of aggression, "forgetting those things which are behind and aching forth unto those things which are before, press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jeaus. are comparatively few.

Experience and observation teach that earnest effort on one line is accompanied by earnest effort on others, and is rewarded by general success, while indifference to one is usually accompanied with indifference to all. If the statistics of the church teach any lesson worth learning, it is that of the old Latin proverb: "Falsus in uno, falsus in omnibus." It is as true of "falsus" as of "falsus"—"faithful in one thing, faithful in all."

If all cur workers, ministerial and lay, shall, by "searching and frank investigation," come to see the real truth, and, with protound humility and sincere devotion, renew the covenant of fidelity on all lines, the results will soon appear to the glory of God and the good of His church.

Philadelphia, Pa.

FROM THE PACIFIC COAST

"ST. ANGELOS."

THE splendid Zion's Herald—maker of good opinion and advocate of high morality—finds eager readers on the sunset side of the continent, who give it loyal support and rejoice in all its excellences both of form and contents. Its ability is recognized and its well-earned place among the first and best of religious newspapers is undisputed. Its new form pleases and its first page illustrations—faces of saints on earth and of saints in heaven—will increase its value for preservation.

The face of no living saint could hardly be more suggestive than that of Dr. Wm. Butler, whom the Herald recently placed before its readers. It is a face on which universal Methodism, even universal Christianity, must delight to gaze, and it was equally fitting that the dear wife of his youth and age should smile out from underneath her cap upon the readers of the same issue which on its first page contained the face of her noble husband.

Not long ago there died not far from us a man well known to New England Methodism, and honored above many—Rev. Henry Cox, D. D. Stalwart in body, buoyant in spirit, successful in service, he was a tower of strength until disease overtook him, and then death. His wife has recently removed from their country home at Azusa, where he died, to Pasadena, a delightful city in which to spend either the morning, noonday, or evening time of life.

And now comes the sad news of the death, on your coast and in your midst, of that man of God, William Nast Brodbeck, D. D., from whom the church militant had received and still expected so much. One is stunned in the presence of such a providence, and only a sublime faith is able to feebly apprehend and

fully submit to it. Perhaps God takes away strong men in the midst of great usefulness now and then to show the church that His cause does not depend too much on men. I heard the dear man once just before he left Walnut Hills, Cincinnati, for Boston. His text "Salute Apelles, approved in Ohrist." The speaker in his own life illustrated the experience of Apelles -"approved in Christ." At dinner on that day I was the guest of Dr. J. H. Bayliss, who was the editor of the Western Christian Advocate, and whom Dr. Brodbeck had succeeded in the pastorate of Walnut Hills Church. Years since Dr. Bayliss went to heaven while yet a man of strength and power, and now Dr. Brodbeck has followed him to the skies. The church submissively mourns. Heaven triumphantly rejoices.

A New England preacher on this coast who is doing good service is Dr. S. J. Carroll, who, en route, served a pastorate at First Church, Salt Lake City, and who has filled some excellent appointments in the California Conference. He is now pastor at Sixth St., Sacramento, important as being our chief church at the capital of the State. Dr. Carroll is strong as a preacher and is a most efficient leader in social meetings. He has been recently conducting successful revival meetings.

Bishop Newman has spent some weeks on the coast and has been helpful to the cause in many ways. While here First Church sold its property—save the parsonage property, which is for sale—and, helped thereto by his urgent counsel, pledged \$10,000 to the Simpson Church, and they also, urged by the Bishop so to do, now offer the Tabernacle for sale. First Church will build at once on Sixth and Hill—a fine location—and Simpson will also build west and south in the Bonnie Brae district—a fine residence section which should be occupied.

Other items of interest should have mention if space permitted, but I should by all means state that at First Church, Pasadena, Rev. Clark Crawford, pastor, a great revival has taken place. There were somewhat over one hundred conversions.

A phenomenally successful Winter Assembly and School of Methods was held. Feb. 8-11, in Simpson Tabernacle under the auspices of the City Union of Epworth Leagues, W. H. Fisher, president. One dollar admitted to the Assembly, including evening lectures. Some 1,500 tickets were sold and the attendance day and night was very large. The program embraced Messrs. Excell and Gabriel of Chicago, Prof. Thos. Nicholson of Iowa, Miss Mattle A. Brown of Minnesota, Rev. Dr. J. N. Beane of San Francisco, and the attractive and attracting Bishop C. C. McCabe, who both lectured and preached before the convention, and who is still filling engagements hereabouts. He preaches Christ, talks missions, aids the brethren in their collections, sings for Jesus, and in lectures tells about the brightness of life in Libby Prison. A thousand blessings on him!

Los Angeles, Cal.

SEEKING THE SOUTHERN CROSS

**

BISHOP H. W. WARREN.

MY last letter closed with Colon in sight. Once seen close to, it is never forgotten. Would that it could be! Built on a marsh, at the mouth of the Chagres River, with boards laid about to get from house to house, tremendous rains very frequent, reeking with filth, smelling of yellow fever, full of mangy dogs and absolutely naked children, one would gladly forget it, but cannot.

Here begins an end of the interoceanic canal, said to be the greatest fraud of modern or any times. The common people of France, who had paid the milliards to Germany as war indemnity, also brought out their savings at the waving of the wand of De Lesseps who had made the Suez Canal. These hundreds of millions were largely used to corrupt legislators and the press, and the rest wasted in ways a few degrees less wicked. No one about here has the least expectation that the canal will ever be finished under the present racial direction. Great character must be the basis of great achievement. This Siamese ligature between the twin continents ought to be cut. Who is the

The isthmus gives a fine example of the law of the survival of the fittest. Vegetation is measurelessly abundant. What does it result in? There is not a tree fit for a telegraph pole, so they are made of iron and brought from New York. There is not wood enough to fire an engine, so coal is brought from New York. Why? Every foot of soil is ready to sprout with abundant seeds. If a tree gets a little above the general growth a hundred vines leap upon it, throttle and break it down. Weeds spring up and choke the good seed. Palms with their spongy texture can outgrow the hardier woods. So the worst, weakest, most worthless vegetation survives, and all worthy, hardy woods perish. As the banana is to beef, so are the weeds that make a canopy impenetrable to sun and air about ten feet from the ground to oaks, elms and pines. Scores of steamers bring each hundreds of tons of bananas north, and carry oak and iron back. Give me beef and iron - fortitude and not lassitude.

From Panama a week south gives fog and rain, but no sight of sun or star, much less the Southern Cross. The horizon of mist comes up before not a ship's length ahead, and goes down as quickly behind. In mining you can see before only as far as the drill point. In all life the curtain lifts not even a step ahead. We know not whether the uplifted foot shall fall on the good ship earth or overboard therefrom. In life sailing often as in world sailing always we are in Paul's condition. When we can no longer bear up against various winds and forces we let her drive. Then the angel comes aboard and assures that the harbor is ahead. We crossed "the line" one night about eight o'clock, but when no man knew exactly. There is no line, as there is no sky, and it is not blue. Many a man crosses a line in his life and does not know it. Mac-

beth crossed the line of regicide when he listened to the witches on the heath, perhaps when he married Lady Macbeth; so did Hazael when he loaded his present of forty camels' burden for Elisha. David crossed the murder line when his look lingered on the bather. Peter, Philip, Andrew and Nathanael crossed the line of apostleship when they obeyed the word, "Follow me."

There are over forty places on the coast where these great steamers stop, but only less than half a dozen ports. At the rest of the places the steamer anchors off shore, and the freight and passengers are lifted on board from the rolling lighters that heave and toss alongside. Passengers are slung up in barrels - left open at one end and part of one side; cattle are put in a sling and come over the side with a mild look of wonder in their eyes. We take on one a minute at a single gangway, and there are six gangways. Into these, with great rattle and bang of chains, shouting of men below and above, and bumping of boats, cargo comes on and goes off at every stop. There is no railroad along this barren coast, and the steamer is the only through transport.

With all our rain and mist this vast stretch of coast from near the equator south is rainless and barren. The rainbearing winds of South America come from the southeast, water the continent, make Amazons possible on that side, and are squeezed dry by the Andes, leaving the west coast riverless and rainless. North Americans should be interested in knowing that the rain that falls in our vast Mississippi region is taken up, according to Lieut. Maury, from the South Pacific Ocean west of Cnile. No wonder the currents of the ocean must be many when the currents of the windbearing rains flow so far.

We have passed numerous guano islands. One little one has had 100,000 tons taken from it. It was piled up one hundred feet deep. Over 5,000,000 tons have been taken from these stores. How busy the birds must have been! And how much more busy the fish!

THE TUSKEGEE CONFERENCE PRESIDENT C. M. MELDEN.

THE Negroes' Farmer Conference, held annually at Tuskegee, Ala., under the auspices of Booker T. Washington, is an occasion of great importance. Its influence is beneficent and far-reaching. The gathering held in February of this year exceeded all previous ones, both in the number of those ho attended and in the interest manifested. A great multitude of people was gathered together who represented every condition from the prosperous farmer and the cultured educator to the ignorant, poverty-stricken laborer. The meeting was characterized by an intense earnestness; in all an eagerness for information and help appeared. For six hours without interruption there was the freest interchange of views, full and frank reports of the condition of the people, and wise suggestions as to methods of improvement.

The presiding genius was Mr. Washington, who held the meeting in his hands and guided its deliberations. It is plain that this man holds a large place in the confidence and affection of his people. They regard him as a leader, and justly so. In his opening address he spoke to them as a father, kindly, plainly, rebuking the r follies and sins, and showing

them the way to apotter life. Special stress was put upon the following points: The importance of securing in their own right at least a few arres of land; the necessity of a house with more than one room and possessing some of the comforts and conveniences of a home; the necessity of diversifying their crops—of raising something to eat instead of devoting all their energies to the growth of cotton; the improvement of their schools in order to give their children greater advantages for intellectual development; and the need of economy, warning them against spending their money in useless indulgences.

After he had concluded his very sensible and practical remarks the meeting was thrown open to all. There was very little method - no set speeches were heard; but so far as there was a program, reports were called for from various States and counties, and the following subjects were especially considered: 1. Have the people secure In a few instances it was shown that the people were freeing themselves from the terriple bondage of the mortgage system and securing for themselves larger or smaller farms. The mortgage system is the bane of the colored race. All the fruits of their industry are absorbed long before the harvest-time and they come to the end of the year with not a cent more than they had at its beginning. 2. The improvement of their homes. The reports indicated that there was some advancement in this respect and that not a few were seeking to improve and even beautify their homes. 3. The schools. The foilowing questions were asked: Has the quality of the teaching improved? Has the term en lengthened? Has the school-house itself been made more attractive and comfortable? The replies were generally encouraging. In many of our Southern States the school term established by the authorities is lengthened by the contributions of the peopie themselves, so that their children are shie to get several additional months' schooling in a year. 4. Have the morals of the people been improved? This was a question which was always asked, and in many instances it. received a negative answer, but in not a few an affirmative. Great emphasis was laid upon the necessity of a pure ministry, and in some communities the people had taken the matter in their own hands and had sifted out unworthy preachers who as wolves in sheep's clothing sought to rend the flock of God.

As one looked out upon the vast multitude of people he was impressed, first, with the enormity of the problem which they present. Their poverty and ignorance are such as to evoke the deepest commiseration and to incite every philanthropic person to attempt their improvement. They were like blind men groping their way along to a surer and safer standing. It will require not only years, but generations, before this people as a whole can be lifted up into a higher and purer life.

One was impre ed, also, as he looked upon the strong intellectual countenances and heard the words of wisdom of the leaders of this people, with the possibilities of the race. We ought not to be discouraged because they have not all in a single generation reached the highest type of Christian culture. The evolution of a race does not take place in a day; it is the work of centuries; but the fact that so many have acquired property and intellectual culture and are worthy to stand by the side of the proudest of this world, fills us with hope for the re-mainder. It is of first importance that the people of the North, as well as of the South, should have patience in dealing with this race problem. While much remains to be done, yet enough has been done to fill us with confidence for the future. Such conferences as this at Tuskegee will be multiplied throughout the Southland, and their influence will be of inestimable worth in realizing this result.

Clark University, Atlanta, Ga.

THE FAMILY

THE CHICKADEE

WILLIAM HALE.

Little brother of the wood, Ermine cloaked, with sable hood, Bravest of brave brothers thou, Calling to me softly now From the icy hemlock tree, Cheery, chirping chickadee:

" Never fear! Spring is here, And the blithest of the year For thee and me Is yet to be, For man and chickadee.

Feariess free-lance of the fields, Though scant fare the bleak earth yields, Thou art barbinger of spring, And each sweet and beauteous thing. So, wee herald, sing away; Blessings on thy cheery lay:
"Never fear!

Spring is here, And the bitthest of the year For thee and me Is yet to be, For man and chickedee."

Bravest, dearest of the birds, Couldst thou hear these loving words! Bleakest lives are oft most blest, Stormiest seas have sometimes rest, And God pours on thee and me Bounteous sunshine, chickadee!

Never fear! God is near. And the dearest of His cheer For thee and me Is yet to be, Little brother chickadee!

Gloucester, Mass.

I houghts for the Thoughtful

" Now what do the March winds whisper

about?
Oh, tell us, kind birds, we pray! "
And the birds made answer,
"The March winds sing
That they're going to bring us a beautiful spring."

- Julia Gordon.

The eternal stars shine out as soon as it is dark enough. — Carlyle.

Some people are always grumbling because roses have thorns. I am thankful that thorns have roses.— Alphonse Karr.

Many have yielded to go a mile with Satan that never intended to go two. He leads poor creatures down into the depths by winding stairs, and does not let them see the bottom, where they are going. — $D.\ L.\ Moody$.

The love of Christ in the heart destroys the love of sin, and the new song of salvation enables us to despise the siren song of temptation and pass it by. That man alone is really safe, who, as he sails the seas of life, carries on board the divine Orpheus, whose heavenly music is daily sounding in his soul. — James Stalker.

It is not every one who can sincerely say, just at the moment of his loss, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." Yet, as the opened eyes of Elisha's servant saw the mountain round about Dothan full of horses and charlots of fire round about Elisha, so the eye of a mighty faith can discern the Divine Presence and rest in it, while others are conscious only of a thick darkness, and

God seems lost out of His world. For it is faith, and nothing else, that can give the victory over the sharpness of pain, and the desolateness of bereavement, and the humiliation of sickness, and the necessities of poverty.—Rishen Thorned. and the humiliation of sickness, and the necessities of poverty. — Bishop Thorold.

As Christian people, let us remember that we are called upon to put our whole soul into our secular life. God has not promised the things of this life to the lazy. We must be earnest, discreet, economical, prudent, painstaking. All Christians do not understand this. Some economical, prudent, painstaking. All Christians do not understand this. Some years ago I knew a religious workingman who was making exceptionally high wages; the times were good, and he found himself in possession of splendid pay. I said to him, "Well, my friend, I suppose you are putting a little away for a rainy day?" "No." was the reply; "I never trouble about rainy days. I always leave rainy days with my Master." So he spent his money freely, making of life a picnic. The last I heard of that brother was that he had gone into the workhouse, and I hardly think Providence led him there. Now I say to you, Don't leave rainy days with your Master, get an umbreila; or, in other words, exercise sense, tact, denial, forethought, in all your temporal affairs, for words, exercise sense, tact, denial, fore-thought, in all your temporal affairs, for it is only when you work with both hands diligently that God promises you success. But when you have done this, when you have done your best to provide honest things, be quiet. No painful misgiving thoughts or words. When you have done your best, God will do all. — Rev. W. L. Watkinson.

There is no favoritism with God; just as the spring flowers, the sunshine, and the pure air are for all, as free to the beggar as to the sovereign, so God's abundant grace is for every man and woman, and there is nothing that any one has ever had which you may not have if you will. The same stream is passing your door, though you may not utilize the power to drive your water-wheel; the same electricity is in the air, though you have not learned to make it flash your messages or do the work of though you have not learned to make it flash your messages or do the work of your home. The same grace that made a Luther, a Knox, a Latimer, a Frances Ridley Havergal, or a Spurgeon, is for you today, and if you are living a low-down life, beaten and thwarted and dashed down and constantly compelled to admit shortcomings and failure. dashed down and constantly compelled to admit shortcomings and failure, understand it is not because there is any favoritism on God's part; because all the Holy Ghost's power, and everything which is stored in Jesus Christ, is waiting to make you a saint and to lift you to the level which you pine for in your best moments. It makes a great difference when a man understands this.—

Rev. F. B. Meyer.

Wood and brass in the organ-loft, Fluted and pollshed, twelve feet high — Simply enigma to soul and eye, Till some one touched it with fingers soft.

O the magical touch that brings Out of inertness life divine! — Surely, the promise and the sign Of all faith's sweet imaginings.

-JAMES BUCKHAM, in Christian En-deavor World.

When Bunyan's Pilgrim came to the cross his load rolled off from him into the tomb of Christ and was no more the tomb of Christ and was no more seen. We carry our burden strapped to our shoulders all the way along our pilgrimage, and make it a matter of religious duty to take it off every night, or at least once a week, and make an inventory of its contents. It is our privilege, having once confessed our sin to God and received His pardon, to forget those things which are behind, and to press forward toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. God has buried our sins in the depths of the sea. Why should we try to fish them up again? God has sent them off into the wilderness. Why

should we follow the scapegoat that we may recover and bear them again our selves? — Lyman Abbott, D. D.

"WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?"

ALICE M. HOUSE.

THE Rev. Willis Campbell was making a round of pastoral calls. Every call, save one, had taken him into a flat or a boarding-house, and he gave a bit of a sigh of relief when he stopped at a little two-story house with an unmistakably homelike aspect.

Martha Parker was convalescing from an attack of nervous prostration, and Mr. Campbell felt he could diagnose her case almost as well as the doctor. Martha had been one of his most zealous Dorcases, and he knew she was cumbered with much serving on committees galore when she undertook to help in the new Social Settlement that the church had opened on the South Side.

He found her downstairs, on a Turkish couch, propped up with a pile of rainbow-hued pillows.

"How do you do today?" he asked, extending his hand and then taking the chair at the side of her couch.

" Much better, thank you," said Martha, smiling, "but you are going to find me such an unprofitable servant, for the doctor prescribes rest for me this winter."

"He doesn't mean to shut you away from everybody, does he?"

"Oh, no; he says I may see all the people I like, but I mustn't even attend a Dorcas Society, or a Helpful Ten, or a Needle-work Guild, or a Social Science Club."

"I'm afraid the doctor is heretic enough to think there is danger of people being surfeited with societies," Campbell said, with a quizzical little smile.

" But women can work so much better shoulder to shoulder," protested Martha.

"I'm afraid you envy the deaconess the enormous aids she has in her white ties, and you don't see that the good you may do as a little lay sister may be proportionate to the good you might have done if your plans had not been thwarted. I have an idea," he added, a moment later, surveying the room with its blooming plants, its open fire-place, and its sunny, homelike aspect. "Why couldn't you have a little social settlement of your own at home this winter?"

"I don't know what you mean," said Martha, looking perplexed.

"I mean just this," said Mr. Campbell, thoughtfully. "We are learning at last that we can teach the poor more by just taking a room and living on the same street with them than by sending them city missionaries. But the people next door to us often need, just like the people in the slums, to have their ideals lifted up and life shown to be worth the living by the example of a fresh, cheery, consecrated life. There are people with heartaches and doubts and discouragements living right about us, but we are too busy to find it out. If you will pray the little prayer of the hymn we sang last Sunday, that you may be 'careful not to serve Him much, but to please Him perfectly,' I believe you will find out God's plan for you this winter, my girl. Never mind if it does reverse all your ideas of serving Him."

Martha looked very seriously into the fire. Then she looked up at Mr. Campbell and said: "I'll promise to try."

It was just a month after Mr. Campbell's call, and Martha was spending the morning with Mrs. Gates, who lived alone with a son, who was a busy physician, in the pretentions flat with the big bay-window in the apartment house at the corner. Mrs. Gates had lost an invalid daughter, who had been her constant companion, in the spring, but Martha had never dropped in to see her till she had begun to ask, " Who is my neighbor?"

She was sitting in the window-seat hemming tea-towels, and looking up from her work she said: "Do you know, I used to frown over at these very windows, Mrs. Gates, because they cut off such a pretty bit of my view ? "

The dew of youth had begun to "steal like balm into wounds that would not heal," and Mrs. Gates looked up from the centrepiece she was embroidering to smile indulgently: "But that was when you were far too busy, my dear, to sit in my window-seat and make me a neighborly little visitation like this."

"Oh, you mustn't excuse me," said Martha, folding up a hemstitched towel. "If you had been poor I'm sure I would have found time to call on you as a friendly visitor. I would have read to you when you couldn't use your eyes, and I might have brought you nice warm Dorcas clothing."

"But you heard the Macedonia cry from the poor, my dear, and you didn't know how lonely one might be, nor how one might cry out for sympathy, in a big building like this that swarms with peo-

Martha looked over at Mrs. Gates and then around the luxuriously furnished flat, with the pretty vistas through the half-drawn portières, and felt that in spite of all money could buy the world might be a very bleak and ugly place, and people might be hungrier for love than bread. Then she gathered up her work, and slipping her hand into Mrs. Gates,' she said: "But you are going to let me call this my Macedonia."

Just then there was a rift in the clouds, and Mrs. Gates wondered if the young girl with the freshness and inspiration of her youth might not in the days to come bring her the cure for heart-hunger.

Somehow Martha felt that her own home never seemed so full of possibilities for happiness and service as it did that afternoon, and she remembered with a sense of satisfaction that Brent Arnold, who had come to the city to study law and lived in a tiny box of a hall bed-room in the boarding-house on the next street, was coming that evening to tea. Ever since Mr. Campbell's visit she had felt that her home, with its books and pictures and music, stood for capital that had not been put out at interest, and she had been trying to leave its latchstring out.

Young Arnold stood before the library fire that night, pushing the little volume of essays he had just borrowed into his overcoat pocket and hesitating before he said good-night.

"I'm going home for the holidays, Miss Martha," he said at last, "and I've been wanting to tell you how I've appreciated your charity in letting me come here. I'm not going to tell you where I was going, right in the face of my Puritan training, that first night Fred asked me home with him from the law achool."

"And yet you say city people are too busy to extend you anything but a little professional charity!"

"I won't any more," he said, leaning against the mantle and smiling down on her. "I don't believe you had any missionary motive in asking me to come here, but a fellow can't stray very far wrong when you let him feel be's bound by home ties. Do you know," he said, buttoning up his coat, "I've about decided you are one of the little slum lassies who go about just teaching people by object lessons instead of preaching to them."

And then he was gone, and Martha sat looking into the fire. She had never felt quite so happy when she was cumbered with much serving, and she had never seen quite so clearly that if one strikes the roots of one's life deep into unselfishness, one has only to let it unfold and everybody will be the better who inhales its fragrance. If she had been a prophet, she might have foreseen how Judge Arnold, in the after years, was to trace back to the little home that became the centre of so much that was helpful and uplifting to the lonely young law student, the beginnings of everything he was able to achieve.

Cincinnati, O.

IS IT SO SWEET?

Is it so sweet to feel a friendship near?
To know a hovering presence in the place?
And, through veiled eyes, be conscious of a

vith gaze intent, and full of sleepless cheer, which eavs: "I love thee wholly. I am

Is this so sweet? Is this a heaven of grace That recompenses for the weary race,
For all life's tumult base and conflict drear?
Yea, this is sweet. But there's a heaven
higher,
The soul shall know that takes her lonely

stand In an embattled place, and sees the land Naked around, and black, and scarred by

Then learns, in very loneliness, to aspire To God: and finds life's victory in her hand.

- Hannah Parker Kimball.

RISING TO THE OCCASION

THERE are two names to give our difficulties, two lights in which to view them - one is as afflictions, the other as opportunities. Why should we allow our petty troubles to rob us of our amiability, our intelligence, our vivacity, our very possibilities to give happiness or to receive it? I do not speak of the great sorrows that blast in a night, turning golden hair to gray, and making plump, warm hands cold and trembly until death stills them. Such strokes of affliction are uncommon.

It is to those of us who draw the common lots that this query is made: What are we thinking of to sell our birthright of good temper, good looks, and good times, for a mess of frets? Do we not wish to develop character and resources? Do we not long to become women to whom younger and weaker ones can look for inspiration? How, then, with this world such as it is and will be in spite of us, shall we become what we wish to become but by experience? We do not de-

pend on people who have not been tried. Should we have any fatuous notions about

Not long ago I was summering with a strong, lovable woman who was shamefully treated by a selfish invalid whom she was trying to help in a friendly way. She did all that was possible to satisfy the most exacting demands, and that failing, quietly and santly made her plans to leave her. Some one said, sympathetically: " How can you take it so easily? I should think you would be disgusted."

"lam," was the reply.

"But you do not show it. You seem rather to enjoy it."

"Frankly, I do enjoy the opportunity," replied the victim. "It is a rare chance. It is the most trying situation that ever I was in, and I want to go through without turning a hair."

She went through it to her satisfaction, and at the same time created a pleasant, often jolly, atmosphere for all the other vic-I know half a dozen people who sought her advice and help in difficulties because she showed such judgment, character, and perfect breeding.

Another wannan was has turned her afflictions into glorious opport inities is one whose life is of the sort that usually crushes and embitters, and nowadays leads to divorce courts. She is married to a man whose domineering management in large things is only equaled by his petty selfishness in small things. He has a veneer of rather captivating manners, but no one can help disliking him as soon as he shows his true nature. A few months after her wedding this poor wife parted company with the hope of joy which marriage brings. Soon, however, she seemed to acquire an easy, sprightly way with all her husband's caprices. Nine out of ten she managed not to see. After the first year or so she never quarreled with him nor let him see her in any wise " upset."

To one who had claims to her confidence she said that she had prayed and pleaded, cried and raved, and tried in every way she could think of to alter the man's chara in all of which she had her trouble for her pains. His character, like Copperfield's Dora's, was already formed. "Then," she said, " I was forced to look to my own character and to consider if I would ruin that and cloud an innocent child's life with my selfishness and resentment; for of course my trouble was that I could have nothing as I liked it. I determined to regard the whole matter as a great opportunity to gain a ma tery over myself, and to develop a social facility in my own family.

"The idea was an inspiration. I put out of mind all the pleasant camaraderie, all the happy thoughts of a unity of interests, everything I had dreamed my marriage would bring, which it had not brought. the facts and considered how I could accommodate myself to them and make use of them for the benefit of all concerned. I thought the matter out as I fancy the president of a stock company tabulates the men and the investments at his disposal. It was an inspiration that soon gave me complete mastery over myself and my annoyances. It stopped all the irritation which grew out of my objections to my husband's course. Not that I weakly gave in. I found some way not to see, not to care, or to fit into his wishes as if they were my own; but withal to preserve my freedom of mind and my self-

"Every development in this new departure was more interesting than the last. I soon found that I really did not care about the little things nor about many of the big ones. They were mostly matters of taste. When a greater issue was involved I asserted my view without any display of feeling. I often found that by keeping cool and apparently indifferent I was alert for resources. on the side I thought the right one

Of course it is a constant trial in a certain way, but I feel that this is what life asks of me. Of others it asks hard work, struggles with drunkards, poverty, illness or lifelong loneliness. I suppose any of them might be mastered in the same way. Of me life demands this, and I have the greatest pride in being equal to the demand, with a good deal of energy and sympathy to spare for my children, my friends, and for others more sorely afflicted." - HELEN AINSLIE SMITH, in Congregationalist.

A SONG OF TRUST

I cannot always see the way that leads
To heights above;
I sometimes quite forget He leads me on
With hand of love;
But yet I know the path must lead me to
Immanuel's land,
And when I reach life's summit I shall know
And understand.

I cannot always trace the onward course
My ship must take;
But, looking backward, I behold afar
Its shining wake
Illumined with God's light of love, and so I onward go, In perfect trust that He who holds the helm The course must know.

I cannot always see the plan on which
He builds my life,
For off the sound of hammers, blow on

The noise of strife, Confuse me till I quite forget He knows And oversees,
And that in all details, with His good plan
My life agrees.

I cannot always know and understand
The Master's rule;
I cannot always do the tasks He gives
In life's hard school;
But Fam learning with His help to solve
Them, one by one,
And when I cannot understand to say,
"Thy will be done."

-GERTRUDE BENEDICT CURTIS, in Ad-

FRANCES WILLARD'S FUNERAL

O woman in America ever had such a funeral as Frances Willard. From the Union Signal we take the following beautiful account of the ceremonies in Willard Hall and at Evanston: -

"The funeral car came into the Michigan Central depot, Chicago, Wednesday morning at nine o'clock, where the precious casket was received by a guard of honor and escorted to Willard Hall. Between a line of guards, composed of the women who knew her well, it was borne slowly, reverently, down the marble-lined corridor to the room that is peculiarly identified with her work. To those who waited within, her last triumphal entry to the platform from which voice had a hundred times carried comfort, hope and encouragement to the hearts of her listeners, was heralded by the sweet strains of 'Rock of Ages' sung by the wom-en who escorted her. A hush fell over the assembly as each heart bowed before the majesty of death that calmed even the individual griet. Tenderly she was laid down, and forming in a semi-circle about her the comrades of many years sang, with breaking voices, 'God be with you till we meet again.'

"Willard Hall, with its wealth of associations, never looked so beautiful. The air was heavy with the perfume from a million flowers, that in every fanciful design of floral art covered the platform, clustered about the marble pillars and decked the gallery. There were garlands of fern and smilax, and the draperies that were twined about the columns and windows were white as the lily that the emblematical figure of 'Purity carried in her hand.

"For a brief interval the company retired, leaving Miss Gordon and the funeral director alone. When they returned the casket was

by which the tables were sometimes turned uncovered and they saw again the face that a few weeks before had smiled upon them, as the last good-by was said. Arrayed in a dainty gown of white silk and lace, she lay as if in a dreamless sleep. From the little satin silppers to the pillow that cushloned the weary head, all was a vision of purest, softest white. A spray of lilies of the valley was loosely clasped in one hand, and Lady Henry Somerset's token of illies of the valley and cape jusmine had been laid over her

"A small table at the head of the casket bore a white floral lyre bearing at its base the words, 'Home Guard,' the floral offering from Lady Henry Somerset, the Crusade Bible and the gavel Miss Willard used in conventions. On the foot of the casket rested a beautiful sheaf of white hyacinths, lacota leaves and bleeding hearts, the offering of Mrs. Matilda B Carse, and on the floor beneath them stood Miss Willard's traveling grip and handbag, the latter crowded full of letters and telegrams, mute evidence of the varied interests that the weary hands had laid down. Every available inch of space on the platform was filled with the floral tributes of friends and societies. Miss Willard's portrait hung on a background of white, wreathed in smilax and with pendant white ribbons. From the left, in mid air, came a flight of white doves, one hovering directly over the casket, its outstretched wings emblematic of the pure soul that had fled.

"At ten o'clock the public was admitted, and Chicago has never seen such a spontaneous tribute of respect as the multitude laid at the feet of this woman who was the friend of all. It was a tribute of love - that of these people. For an hour before the little funeral procession came to the cross-surmounted portal of the hall there were crowds waiting for admission, and for another hour they patiently stood on the wet pavement, with the cold wind sweeping in sleety gusts against them, before they gained admittance. From that time until the grief-laden coffin was brought out in the evening the dense atream of men and women entering and passing out was unbroken. Many stood in line for hours; and through it all there was no evidence of morbid curiosity.

"All day long there were strains of sweet music floating through the room, furnish by a choir of fifty voices — the familiar hymns that Miss Willard loved best: 'He Leadeth Me,' 'Jesus, Lover of My Soul,' Nearer, My God, to Thee,' When the Mists have Rolled Away,' were interspersed with beautiful solos and other selections. . .

At four o'clock those in charge were unwillingly obliged to direct that no more people should be admitted, and many hundreds turned away disappointed.

"Bishop J. H. Vincent offered the final prayer, and the hymn, 'God be with you till we meet again,' was sung.

Arriving at Evanston by train, the pallearers who had acted in the cere Chicago transferred their charge to the studente of the Northwestern University., Six of their number took the casket tenderly upon their shoulders and bore it to the waiting hearse. The cortège then formed, a guard of students following the hearse on foot to Rest Cottage, the National officers and guard of honor bringing up the rear in carriages. The short journey was soon made and the little cottage resounded with the notes of 'Home, Sweet Home' sung with faltering voices, as the students bore the still form of Frances Willard into the home she loved so well.

"Thursday morning in Evanston dawned in bright winter calm. For a week, cloud and wind, rain and snow and sleet, had held stormy sway, but the last day of public tribute and farewell was giorious with sunshine.

"At the door of Rest Cottage - truly a place of rest for that quiet form so often

wearied in the stress of life - was tied s wreath of evergreen gathered by the L. T. L. of Oberlin, O., from a hedge planted by Miss Willard's father.

"In the quiet parlor, all unwearied by the passing of the silent throngs of Wednesday. - 'at home' for a little time. Death was kind. Though he had claimed her carthly house for almost a week, he had laid no merk upon the quiet face that had him with a smile. But it was the first time that this most gracious of all hostesses had failed to greet her guests at the cottage with outstretched hands and ready heart of help and love.

The decorations were not many, but significant. In the bay window, which was banked with palms, hung a wreath of violets and roses from the Catholic Little Sisters of Visitation, of Evanston. On an easel stood a bas relief of Madame Willard and a picture of her daughter - face to face now and forever. In the fireplace was a cluster of fragrant green bearing this card: 'Sweet-brier that Frank planted, Churchville, N. Y.'

"The atmosphere of the little parlor breathed naught but cheer and the brightness that was always associated with the presence of its mistress. Friends passed quietly in and out until the hour set for the final services had arrived. The words of the familiar hymn, 'How Firm a Foundation,' came sweetly and clearly through the room; then, standing beside the quiet form of her friend and leader, Mrs. L. M. N. Stevens, of Maine, prayed tenderly, with breaking voice; again the quartet sang, 'Gently, Lord, ob, gently lead us,' the benediction was pronounced by the venerable Professor Emerson, of Beloit, Wis., and the precious burden was once more taken up and borne out of the home that had been to the last, ' Rest' Cot-

Despite the tens of thousands who on Wednesday had gathered to look upon Miss Willard's face, reverent, patient thousands gathered in and about the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Evanston for the funerservice. Love had outloved itself in lay. ish expressions of tenderness, through flower and fern and paim and draperies of symbolic white.

"The words of the solemn processional were read by Rev. Frank M. Bristol, pastor of the church, who led the long line of mourners. Following, came representatives of the Northwestern University, President Henry Wade Rogers at their head. Then came the casket borne on the shoulders of six pallbearers, students of the college. All eyes and hearts turned to the pearl-gray casket, and it is doubtful if many ears took note of the low organ tones, or the words of life and resurrection read by Dr. Bristol.

"'I wonder if she knows,' was the tender, unspoken question of many a heart, as the coffin was placed before the altar, amid such scene of holy beauty as even she for whomit was, had rarely seen in life. On the floor beneath the casket was a rug of roses and violets, and forming a radiant arch over the beloved sleeper was a rainbow of spring's blossoms - violets, the tender blue of hyacinths, the living green of smilax, pale yellow daffodils and the deeper glory of the crimson-touched tulip - a bow of promise shining through the clouds. She has gone beyond the glory of the rainbow, but for the comrades who follow, the 'everlasting covenant ' remains.

"Beneath the rainbow, and caught away from the 'casket by a hovering dove, was a broad white ribbon bearing in silver letters six short sweet words, the last spoken on earth, and may it not be the first enraptured cry of the soul set free from mortality: ' How beautiful to be with God.

"The rainbow-arch was the design and gift of Anna Gordon and Miss Amelia Pemell, World's superintendent of flower mission work. . . . From the rose-crowned

pillars that supported the arch, around and within the altar, up to the open Bible on the pulpit, beyond to the music stand of the choir, were flowers, the fairest that could be found - wreath, cluster, pillow, harp, gates ajar, anchor, crown, massed blossoms, pots and boxes of 'growing things abloom,' trailing vine, fern, evergreen. It was a picture never to be forgotten, but the heart of it all was a gray casket enshrining the outward form of her whose life was ever of the sim-

"Bishop Bowman, of the M. E. Church, offered prayer, and the choir sang Tennyson's 'Crossing the Bar.' How often have we heard our Chieftain pray: -

" · And may there be no moaning of the bar When I put out to sea!

a prayer that found its answer in the holy life which at its close knew no tempest of soul."

President Rogers of Northwestern University was the first speaker, upon " Miss Willard as an Educator." He was followed by Mrs. Louise S. Rounds, State president of Illinois, upon "Miss Willard as a Patriot;" Mrs. Clara C. Hoffman, on "Miss Willard as a Leader; " Mrs. Katharine Lente Stevenson, on " Miss Willard as a Friend;" Miss Johannsdottir of Iceland, Dr. C. J. Little, and Dr. C. F. Bradley. Dr. Milton S. Terry, of Garrett Biblical Institute, a close friend of Miss Willard, read an original poem. The Union Signal continues: -

"When all had been said - how immeasurably less than could have been said! was time to say good-by, the old-time 'God be with you,' the 'hall' that is ever folded within the 'farewell' of those who are in Christ. Once more the long silent procession filed past the beloved form, lying, oh, so still in its resting-place. Who shall describe the scene? One common sorrow and one common love had made one common rank. It was a sublime leveling up. Grief was as pungent and majestic on the face of the laborer as on that of the student. Dark African features were touched with the soft light of reverence that crowned the fair white brows of maidens. Crusade mothers, infirm with the weight of years, lads and lasses from school, aged men, some who crept painfully by on crutches, little children lifted in parent arms to look upon the sleeper - for nearly two hours the line moved slowly on, all too fast for the love that went to linger by her side. But at last the coffin lid was lowered, and God only knows what it shut away from them that remained!

The white-ribbon star spangled banner had draped the casket-home of our leader's weary body all through its week's journeyings. 'It is washed in our tears,' wrote Kate Lunden, and when they lifted it for the last time before the beloved form was borne out on stalwart shoulders, fresh tears fell and hearts were baptized anew to ' the work.'

"This banner of world-circling love ere shall wave In the name of our Christ, who is mighty to save."

" At the cemetery - beautiful Rosehill its pure white covering of snow dazzling in the sunshine, the vault was decked with evergreens, and branches of living green strewed the pathway to the entrance. pall-bearers, for the last time, took up their precious burden, and after a brief, simple prayer by Mrs. Alice Gordon Gulick, the casket was placed in an outer case of dark oak clamped with burnished copper. The floral clamped with burnished copper. The floral offerings were deposited by weeping friends, and then the ponderous bronze doors shut her from their sight — no, not her, our beloved, but the precious clay, the outgrown garment of the flesh. A few months later it will be placed beside that of her mother."

- Let sorrow have way. Tears purge the heart from which their streams come. But Jesus Christ says to us all, "Weep not," because He comes to us all with that which, if I

may so say, puts a rainbow into the teardrops, and makes it possible that the great paradox should be fulfilled in our hearts, "as Weep not; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing." or, if you weep, let the tears have thankfulness as well as grief in them. - Alexander Maclaren, D. D.

ABOUT WOMEN

Mrs. Paul Breen, of San Francisco, has given \$30,000 for the construction of an arch in Golden Gate Park, to be a memorial to her husband and sons.

Miss Marie Corelli, who has recently been obliged to undergo a severe operation, wishes it to be widely known that the surgeon to whose skill she owes her life is a woman, Mrs. Scharlieb, M. D.

A young English woman, Miss Hamilton, who successfully studied medicine in Brussels, and went to Calcutta to practice, has become the medical adviser of the Emir of Afghanistan. She has done much to reconcile the Emir to Western civilization, and has been able to introduce compulsory vaccination in Afghanistan.

Mrs. Grace A. Oliver, of Salem, has been appointed a trustee of the Massachusetts State Insane Asylum in Danvers, vice Harriet Lee, of Salem, resigned. Mrs. Oliver is a member of the Salem School Board, of the Salem Society for the Higher Education of Women, of the Salem Improvement Society, and is vice-president of the Thought and Work Club.

Miss Fish is keeper of the Point Pines Lighthouse at Monterey, Cal., a dreary abode, far from any neighboring house, upon the gray ocean sands. She at once started to transform it into a more homelike spot. Within she added warm draperies and rare china. Without she enclosed a large garden, planting around it with the native cypress found nowhere else in the world. Behind these sheltering trees she made a broad, velvety lawn, and planted tea roses, geraniums and other fragrant flowers. sunny days this garden, ninety feet above the sea, and overlooking the vast blue Pacific, is one of the prettiest places on the coast Miss Fish is especially careful of the great light intrusted to her care. Punctual to the moment it always sends its clear rays out across the water, and is as punctually extinguished when day appears, - Woman's

BOYS AND GIRLS

THE COMING-OUT PARTY

ANNIE HAMILTON DONNELL

THE very latest thing - maybe I ought to say things - out! " Miss Mildred Parsons and her brothers, Master Lawrence and The Baby," the invitations read, "invite you to a Coming-Out Party this afternoon. Come at two o'clock and don't dress up! "

Such a funny idea - a party, and not dress up! But mamma persisted gently in putting on the twin B's' - Betty's and Beth's, you know - plain brown dresses.

" For it wouldn't be polite now to dress up," she said, "after they've asked you not to."

Honey Bunch was invited, too, and mamma put on her little, bright, everyday plaid.

"Who's 'coming out,' you s'pose, mamma?" asked Betty. "Mildred?"

"Why, no, I think that can't be," said mamma with a smile. "She's only

seven, and young ladies do not usually ' come out ' before they are eighteen at least."

"Then I don't see who 'tis."

"I don't, either," mamma said.

But they soon found out. Mildred and Lawrence met them at the -kitchen door! Think of going to a party and going in at the kitchen door!

'The party's out in the woodshed," explained Lawrence, eagerly. "You can come right out with your hats on." " You

Funnier and funnier still - the woodshed!

"Take this box out, Mildred," her mamma said, "for Honey Bunch to stand on. She's so short. And remember, dearles, that guests have the best places."

" Is it a show?" asked Beth, in a flurry of curiosity.

"Yes, kind of - yes, 'tis a show," Mildred said.

"Oh, my! - Panch'n'Judy!

"They're sort of Punches," laughed Liwrence, "but there aren't any Judya! "

At the woodhouse door Uacle Lem met them all, and gravely shook hands.

"Show's begun," he said, briskly. Who has reserved seats?"

"The Twin B's 'n' Honey Bunch!" shouted Mildred and Lawrence in a breath. "An' mamma's going to sit with The Baby."

And so the Coming Out Party began. Can you guess who came out?

Forty one little wet yellow chickens! They didn't all "come out" at once dear me, no! It took some of them a good while. They had to saw open their shells with the tiny hard points on their beaks, and then they had to rest, and then they had to wriggle and squirm out. When they were "out," how draggled and homely they were! But it didn't take long to dry and scramble over to the little windows - the cunningest, yellowest little "come outers," as Lawrence called them.

You see, Uncle Lem's big incubator was out in the woodshed, and the yellow chickens were in that. The children watched them through its windows.

"It's a beautiful party," exclaimed Betty, with a long sigh of contentment. "Oh, isn't it!" cried Beth.

And Honey Bunch said so, too.

After awhile it was over, and then there was a lunch, in the kitchen, of egg salad and chicken sandwiches. But the best of it all was that each little guest carried home a wee, wee, fluffy, yellow chicken in a box of cotton — to "keep!"

Kent's Hill, Me.

The Mountain and the Squirrel

The mountain and the squirrel

Had a quarrel,
And the former called the latter "Little

prig; "
Bun replied,
You are doubtless very big,
But all sorts of things and weather You are dubtions and weather Must be taken in together To make up a year, And a sphere.

And I think it no disgrace To occupy my place.

If I'm not so large as you, You are not so small as I, And not half so spry: I'll not deny you make A very pretty squirrel-track. Talents differ; all is well and wisely put; If I cannot carry forests on my back, Neither can you crack a nui! "

— R. W. Emerson.

OUR BOOK TABLE

Selections fr. m the Works of Bishop Thorold. With Preface by the Lord Bishop of Winchester. E. P. Dutton & Co.: New York, Price, \$1.50.

This is the freshest, most wholesome and healthy book of devotion that we have ex-amined for a long period. The Bishop of Winchester says of Bishop Thoroid: "The strength of his remarkable personality lay in his power of giving forth from the deep storehouse of his spiritual thought and exp rience 'things new and old,' in words which, as Luther said of St. Paul's, ' have hands and They cling and stay. They have alfeet. ready helped thousands whom he never saw. Reproduced as this book reproduces them, they will help many more."

As no description of the book will do it justice, we quote from its pages, almost at random. Under the head of "The Disaster of Lost Faith " the author says:

of Lost Faith" the author says: —

"All that the religion of Christ has given to the world, is still giving it, must go, if faith goes. The serene and sweet elevation of conduct and life that comes from the hope of immortality — that must go; and it would be worse than death to millions of beautiful lives. The absorbing and regenerating forces that flow from the contemplation of Jesus Christ — His life and death, and words, and character — these will all be dried up, as a river when it is lost in the sands, and with nothing in its place."

Upon "The Habit of Sacrifice," says: -

"But the only way to become capable of lofty sacrifices is first to begin with humble ones. The doing of little duties at our own home door, the love of our neighbor, perhaps uninteresting and rather stupid, are the first uninteresting and rather stupid, are the first steps in the ladder of goodness, at the top of which sparkies the martyr's crown. For there are martyrs now, who live out their quiet years, die in their beds, wear every-day ciothes, enjoy homely worship, yet lay their lives at their Heavenly Master's feet as fully and as acceptably as either Ignatius or Rid-ley."

Bishop Thoroid is no specialist or cloister saint. He believes in spiritual help which is equal to every need and strain of practical life. He touches every string in the great harp of personal experience, and in the music of their vibration the reader is inspired with new life and hope. This volume is heartily commended for the good it will do to every sincere reader.

tenascent Christianity: A Forecast of the Twe tieth century in the Light of Higher Criticism the Bible, Study of Comparative Religion and the Universal Prayer for Religious Unity. By Clergyman. G. P. Putnam's Sons: New York.

The title of this volume is so pretentious, and the work of the publishers is so excellent, that one naturally would expect that a new and valuable contribution had been made to the discussions of our common re ligion. But not for many a day has a book come to our table that is so enigmatical, contusing and disappointing. The author reveals a peculiar intellectual eccentricity in the entire volume, beginning with the title-page. In one line he seeks to conceal his identity, and in five lines that follow he announces the name and location of several churches which he has served, beginning with a Protestant Episcopal and ending with a Unitarian, which disclosure makes it easy to ascertain the author's identity should any one be sufficiently interested to prosecute the inquiry. To most of his readers, however, it is believed that his identity will be left undiscovered. The author shows his decided mental idiosyncrasy in another way. He has solicited what he characterizes as "advance reviews." Advance sheets of the volume were submitted to friends for their judgment, and the replies or criticisms rather fulsome commendations - are published in the opening pages of the volume, with the omission of the names of the socalled reviewers. It is supposed that the author desires in this way to create a favorable impression. If this be the case, the reader will be doomed to the greater disappoint-ment. The book itself comprises excerpts

from the Scriptures and from writers'evidently of the broad and very latitudinarian school of theology, and attempted axiomatic and syllogistic declarations about truths. It is a hodge-podge, confused and confusing. Why it was published we are utterly at a loss to understand.

Modern France. 1789-1895. By André Lebon, member of the Chamber of Deputies. G. P. Futnam Sons: New York.

This volume, in the excellent "Story of the Nations" series, which the Putnams have given to the public, is written with critical care and evident loyalty to historic truth. The history of France for the last century is crowded thick with most important events. No person who desires to be intelligent concerning modern epochs in history can afford to be without the reading of this volume. The publishers state that the list of histories issued in this series now comprises the titles of some fifty works in readiness, irrespective of the group in press and in preparation. In connection with the increasing demand for the series as a set, it has seemed desirable to prepare for it a style of cover somewhat better suited to the requirements of the library. The volumes hereafter to be issued in the series and the further supplies of the volumes previously published will be, as far as issued in the cioth style, put up in the new cover. Customers who prefer to keep their sets uniform in the original style of binding can, however, still be supplied with the later issues in this original style. The half leather style will be retained as heretofore.

The Gate Called Beautiful. An Institute of Unristan Sociology. sy Edward A. Warriner. Thomas Whittaker: New York. Price, \$1.50.

This is a strong plea for a Christian sociol The author has studied the subject critically and comprehensively, and puts his system equarely upon a Biblical basis. Every ge is filled with direct and partinent Biblical references and authority. The last three chapters upon "Applied Faith," Applied Hope," and "Applied Charity," are especially practical and suggestive. While not prepared to accept the author's premises or conclusions in many cases, we have been profited by the reasonableness of his posi tions and the clearness and sincerity of his statements.

Astronomy. By Agnes M. Clarke, author of a Popular history of Astronomy during the Nineteenth Century; A. Fowler, demonstrator to the Royal College of Science; J. Ellard Gore, author of the Sciency of the Heavells. D. Appleton & Company: New York.

This new volume in "The Concise Knowiedge Library " aims to present in condensed form a popular synopsis of astronomical knowledge to date. The work is illustrated by a large number of diagrams and other illustrations prepared expressly for its pages, as well as by a number of photographic and other reproductions of photographs and drawings made by distinguished astronomers in Europe and America. The style of the book is made popular and easy of comprehension to the average reader. Every student of astronomy will find it very suggestive and helpful.

he Story of John Wesley. Told to Boys and Girls. By Marianne Ririew. Eaton & Mains: New York. Price, 75 cents.

The author attempts to render the life of John Wesley interesting and apprehensible to young people, but she makes the mistake that many people do in addressing children — she "talks down" to them too much. Nor do we think that the child who reads this volume will have obtained anything like a fair and comprehensive idea of the ability, character and achievements of Wes-

Stepping Stones to Literature. A Reader for the Fifth Grade. By Sarah Louise Arnold and Charles B. Gilbert. Sliver, Burdett & Company: Boston, New York, Chicago, Philadelphia.

The volumes in this model series of school readers bear marks of studious thought and painstaking care; they have evidently been

planned in all carnestness of purpose, and wrought out with faithful attention to detail in every particular. They are, moreover, sentially practical in their aim and method, as might be expected from the fact that both authors have been for years in close touch with pupils and teachers through their



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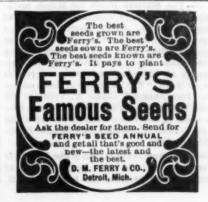
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Digging Ditches; and Other Sermons to Boys and Girls. By Rev. Frederick B. Cowl. Eston & Mains: New York. Price, 56 cents.

This volume contains a healthy series of sermons preached by the author to boys and girls in Leeds, England. The subjects, which are practical, are treated with freshness and vigor.

The Lord's Table. A Help to the Right Observance of the Holy Supper. By Rev. Andrew Murray. Fleming H. Reveil Company: New York. Price, 50 cents.

Those who will devoutly read and ponder this little book will learn better what it is to enter into that mystical union with Christ which the Saviour contemplated for all His disciples.

Prayers and Promises. Messages from the Holy Scripture. By H. O. G. Monle, D. D. Thomas Whit-taker: New York.

This very inspiring and faith-developing little book, so like those of this author, contains two series of studies on passages of Scripture, the first with the Old Testament and the second with the New Testament.

Magazines

-Prof. Goldwin Smith writes in characteristic style in the North American Review for March upon, "Is the Constitution Outworn ?" Rev. Dr. F. E. Clark answers the question with many affirmatives: "Do Foreign Missions Pay?" "Personal Morals and College Government" is very sanely and incisively treated by President Charles F. " Patriotism, its Dangers and Thwing. "Patriotism, its Dangers and Duties," is presented by the Bishop of Ai-It is a very strong number. (291 Fifth Ave., New York.)

The American Journal of Sociology for March is a strong and pertinent number. The student of sociology cannot well get along without this critical and well-balanced magazine. These are some of the top-ics treated in this number: "Character Building at Elmira" (illustrated); "The Philadelphia Gas Works;" "A Statistical Study in Causes of Poverty; " "The Relief and Care of Dependents; " " The Persisten of Social Groups." (The University of Chicago Press: Chicago, Ills.)

Fourteen pertinent contributions by distinguished writers make up the Forum for March. Hawaii, Cuba, the Future of the Democratic Party, China, Brazil, "England and Egypt," "Municipal Gas History," "Organ Music and Organ Playing," "The Tramp Problem," "Astronomical Progand "The Neo-Romantic Novel" are e of the subjects treated. (The Forum Publishing Company: New York.)

The Biblical World for March maintains its usual high standard in its table of contents. Hon. Selah Merrill presents a very interesting contribution upon, " Capernaum, Christ's 'Own City,'" which is finely illustrated. Prof. Henderson, of the University of Chicago, has a very suggestive paper upon "The Influence of Jesus on So-cial Institutions." Clyde W. Votaw of the same institution writes upon "Recent Dis-cussions of the Chronology of the Apostolic (The University of Chicago Press: Chicago, Ills.)

- The first contribution in the Homiletic Review for March is by Joseph Parker, of London, who presents the late Charles H.

Spurgeon. Prof. B. B. Warfield writes upon "Recent Reconstructions of Theology."
Dr. C. H. Payne treats "God's Call to the Church of Today." In the Sermonic Section appear the names of Dr. Talmage, Canon Gore, Canon Henry Scott Holland, President A. V. H. Raymond. (Fank & Wagnalis Co.: New York.)

-With the delicitous title, "Aquatic Protégés of Government," Joanna R. Nicholis Kyle presents, in the March number of Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly, an interesting and instructive paper, profusely illustrated, upon the propagation and cultivation of fish by the Government. An important article upon "The Congregationalists" is from the pen of Rev. Dr. A. E. Dunning. The fifth instalment in the Andrew Jackson series appears this month. The life and people of Christiania, the city of New Orleans, Harvard University, and "Massachusetts before the 'Mayflower,'" are valuable illustrated contributions. new serial story begins in this number "Marie Tremaine," by Frances Swan Willisms. (Frank Leelie's Publishing House: New York.)

Literary Notes

- Mrs. Coventry Patmore is preparing a biography of her late husband.
- Mr. Julian Hawthorne has gone to Cuba in the interests of Collier's Weekly.
- Mr. Kipling's new story, "The Burning of the Sarah Sands," is described as a stirring historical tale of maritime advent-
- "A Kentucky Cardinal," by James Lane Allen, is being translated into Japane
- Literature says: " Mr. Alfred Austin, the Poet Laureate, has, we understand, severed his connection with the Standard, in order to be able to devote more time to the
- The edition de luze of the works of Francis Parkman, in twenty volumes, will be completed this month by Little, Brown &

Co. In April will be begun the publication of a new edition of the romances of Alex-andre Dumas, "The d'Artagnan Edition," in fifty volumes.

- The whole first edition of Mrs. Isabella Bird Bishop's " Korea and her Neighbors was sold out on the day after its publication, so great is the demand for her writings.
- The copyright on "John Halifax, Gen. tleman," runs out this year. The sales of it have reached 250,000 copies and it still is in demand. A sixpenny edition recently proved popular in England.
- Mrs. Mary St. Leger Harrison, more widely known by her pen name, "Lucas Malet," is a daughter of the late Charles Kingsley, and was born in 1852. In 1876 she married Mr. Harrison, rector of Clovelly, North Devon, England, and the scene of much of her best fiction lies round and about that picturesque little village.
- "The Companions of the Sorrowful Way," by Ian Maclaren (Rev. John Watson), will be ready from the press of Dodd. Mead & Co. before Easter. It is a volume of religious meditation, the same in vein as "The Upper Room.'
- Canon Rawnsley is calling for sub scriptions for a memorial to Cudmon, "the first poet of our island." It is to be in the form of a cross of Anglian design, erected in the churchyard of St. Mary's, Whitby, "in what is probably part of the actual burial ground where the dust of Cædmon lies.'
- There is a familiar anecdote of Mr. Dodgson which may bear repetition, says Book News. "When 'Alice' was making her first conquest of English readers, the book was brought to the attention of the en, who was highly entertained by it, and sent an expression of her approval to the author, with the request that he send her his next book when it should appear. Mr. Dodg-son expressed his gratitude for this mark of royal favor, and in course of time sent to his Queen 'his next book,' which happened to be a treatise on quaternions. Whether his royal patron appreciated this whim of his humor, we have never heard."

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Hood's Sarsaparilla Testimonial

A medicine that will cure such severe | the time. I finally discontinued the medisickness as alluded to below is equally effective in reaching and overcoming the numerous ailments so general at this season, and which unless promptly removed are liable to result in illness of an obstinate nature. "A stitch in time, etc., was never more aptly applied. Read Mr. Hammond's letter :

" Table Grove, Ill., Feb. 4, 1898. "C. l. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.:

"Gentlemen: - Several years ago I was taken with what the doctors pronounced rheumatism and scrofula. My limbs became drawn up, and I suffered great pain. 1 remained in this condition for about six months, when running sores broke out on each side of my thighs and on my wrist.

Pieces of Bone Came Out

of the sores on my thighs, and physicians sed and thought believed the bone was disease a surgical operation would be necessary. I was then a perfect wreck and suffered untold misery. I did not have any appetite and my sleep was much disturbed. I was unable to walk and was growing worse all it this Spring.

cine that had been prescribed for me, and began taking Hood's Sarsaparilla. In a short time my appetite returned, and the sores began to heal. My limbs gradually resumed their natural condition, and I was able to throw away my crutches, In six months from the time I began to take Hood's Sarsa-

Able to Co About as Usual

My cure has proved to be permanent, and I am now feeling better than I ever felt before and weigh 180 pounds. It is only a few years since I was a cripple. I have had very little sickness since taking Hood's Sarsaps rilla. I gladly recommend this medicine to any one afflicted as I was."

URRAN HAMMOND.

For Your Spring Medicine

To purify your blood, you need a medicine which cures blood diseases. Such cures as the above prove the merit of Hood's Sarsapa-rills and should convince you that it is the best medicine for you. One bottle costs but little and will do a great deal of good. Try

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THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

First Quarterly Review

SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 1898.

DEV. W. O. HOLWAY, D. D., U. S. N.

1 Preliminary

- 1. GOLDEN TEXT: Thou are the Christ, the Son of the living God. Matt. 16: 16.
- 2. THE LESSONS OF THE QUARTER were taken THE LESSONS OF THE QUARTER were taken from the first fourteen chapters of St. Matthew's Gospel; beginning with the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist, and ending with the beheading of the latter by Herod Antipas.
- 3. HOME READINGS: Monday Matt. 4: 1-11.
 Tuesday Matt. 4: 17-25. Wednesday Matt. 5: 1-12.
 Thursday Matt. 6: 5-15. Priday Matt. 6: 24-34.
 Saiurday Matt. 11: 30-30. Sunday Matt. 12: 1 13.

II Lesson Analysis

1. JESUS AND JOHN (Matt. 3: 7-17).

John's fervent ministry; the multitudes that came to his baptism; his fearless utterances to the Pharisees and Sadducees; his startling figure of the axe laid at the root of the unfruitful tree; his proclamation of the Coming One, mightier than himself, who would "baptize with the Holy Ghost and with fire:" the arrival of Jesus at the ford of the Jordan: His desire for baptism: John's remonstrance and submission; the baptism of our Lord; the opening heavens, the Spirit descending like a dove, and the unearthly Voice - include the principal facts of the lesson.

2. JESUS TEMPTED (Matt. 4: 1-11).

After a forty days' fast the tempter approached Jesus in the wilderness with the suggestion that He assuage His hunger, and at the same time prove His divine Sonship, by turning stones into bread. "Man shall not live by bread alone," the Lord replied, " Man shall parrying the attack with the weapon of the To cast Himself down from the pinnacle of the temple and thereby gain the suffrage of the world by an exploit rather than by self-denial and suffering — the sec-ond temptation, which the devil made stronger by quoting Scripture — was repelled by the single text, "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." The offer of the world's kingdoms and glory, the throne of universal dominion, on cendition of a single act of devil-worship - the third temptation ended with an indignant, "Get thee behind Me. Satan!

3. BEGINNING OF THE MINISTRY OF JESUS (Matt. 4: 17-25).

The preaching of repentance by Jesus after the voice of the Baptist was stilled; His call of Simon and Andrew, James and John from their nets, with the promise that He would make them " fishers of men," and His Galilean ministry with its miracles of healing constitute an outline of the lesson.

4. THE BEATITUDES (Matt. 5: 1-12).

The truly "blessed" are the poor in spirit, the mourning, the meek, the spiritually famished, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, the persecuted. To each class an appropriate promise was given. Especially were those persecuted for Christ's sake pro-nounced blessed. Their suffering identified them with the "goodly fellowship of the

5. How to PRAY (Matt. 6: 5-15).

To display one's plety is to be as the hypo crites whose sole object is to be" seen of men." Ostentation in prayer is to be avoided. Not the street corner or the synagogue, but the shut "closet" is to be preferred. He that seeth in secret will know and reward. Senseless repetitions and much speaking will avail naught with Him who knows what we need before we ask. The lesson closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Two masters - God and Mammon, for example - cannot be served at the same time. Undue anxiety about what we shall eat, or drink, or wear, is forbidden. The birds who neither sow nor reap, are fed; the lilies which toil not, are clothed with a glory surpassing that of Solomon; are not the disciples better than these? It is heathenish to distrust the Father's care. First " seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness," and all requisite needs will be "added." Trouble must not be borrowed for the morrow. Safficient for each day are its own evils.

7. THE CALL OF MATTHEW (Matt. 9: 9-

The summons to the tax-gatherer; Mat thew, or Levi, sitting at the place of toll to follow Jesus, and his prompt obedience: the feast given by Matthew at his own house to Jesus and the disciples; the sneer of the Pharisees that Jesus should mingle socially with publicans and singers; Jesus' reply that a physician is not needed by the well, but by sick, and that His mission was not to the righteous but to sinners; the question about fasting, raised by John's disciples and the Pharisees, and the significant answer that groomsmen do not mourn - their time for mourning is when the bridegroom is taken away - and the further reminder that it is less to fit new cloth to an old garment, or to put new wine into old wine-skins - constitute an outline of the lesson.

8. THE TWELVE SENT FORTH (Matt. 10: 2-15).

The principal points were: The enumeration of the twelve apostles; their first commission - to go out as evangelists; their endowments - authority to exorcise demons. and to heal every species of sickness; their restricted field—"the lost sheep of the house of Israel" only; and the burden of their instruction - to care not and fear not; to take nothing for their journey; to be reck less of food, raiment, money; and to find a temporary home with "a son of peace," shaking off the dust of their feet whenever rejected.

9. WARNING AND INVITATION (Matt. 11: 20-30).

Woes were pronounced on Chorazin and Bethsaids for their perversity, for Tyre and Sidon, had they enjoyed such privileges. would have repented long ago in sackcloth and in ashes. Capernaum, too, heaven-high in privilege, would be brought down to Hades. for, had the Sodomites been favored as she had been, their city had not perished. Then, addressing the Father, Jesus acknowledged the wisdom of His dealings in concealing eavenly mysteries from " the wise and prudent" and revealing them to " babes." All things had been committed to Him by the Father, and the mystery of His nature was known only by the Father, even as the Father was utterly incomprehensible save by the Son and by him to whom the Son will reveal Him. Then came that tenderest invitation ever uttered in human speech, " Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Meekness and lowliness characterize Him as a Te and the "yoke" of His discipleship is "easy," and the "burden" which He imposes salutary and " light."

10. JESUS AND THE SABBATH (Matt. 12:

The behavior of the disciples on a certain Sabbath in plucking ears of corn led the watchful Pharisees to complain to Christ that His disciples were breaking the law. Jesus, in reply, quoted David's course, who under a like stress of hunger had eaten the shewbread; and also the priests, who, if work profaned the Sabbath, were in the highest degree guilty. He asserted that One greater an the temple was present; and that " the

6. OUR FATHER'S CARE (Matt. 6: 24-34). Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath." A second case of "desecration" occurred in a synagogue, in which a man was present who had a withered hand. They asked Him, "is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" Reminding them that they would not hesitate to pull a sheep out of a pit on the Sabbath, and certainly a man is worth more than a sheep. He hade the man stretch forth his hand, and the act was followed by a complete and visible

> 11. THE WHEAT AND TARES (Mott. 13: 24-30; 36 43).

A farmer was depicted who sowed good seed in his field; and an enemy, who, under cover of darkness, sowed tares among the wheat. The mischief was unsuspected; the field prospered, and not until the kernels formed did the noxious growth appear. perplexed servants inform the householder. They are eager to uproot the false growth, but are restrained by the proprietor, who reminds them that the wheat would suffer by any violence done to the tares. Both must grow together until the harvest; then the tares are to be first gathered and afterwards bundled and burned, while the wheat is to be garnered up for use. In our Lord's interpretation the field represents the world: the children of the kingdom "the good seed and the "calldren of the wicked one" the tares. The enemy, working in the dark, is the devil. The harvest time is the end of the world, when the angels shall act as reapers. The wicked shall then be consigned to a " furnace of fire;" while the "righteous shall shine forth like the sun " in the kingdom of

12. JOHN THE BAPTIST BEHEADED (Matt. 14: 1-12).

The fame of Jesus' miracles reached Herod Antipas, who, conscience-stricken, believed Him to be John the Baptist resurrected. Over a year before he had arrested and imprisoned John. The Baptist declared to him that his union with Herodias was " not law-The guilty woman used every method to have John put to death, but failed, her purpose being restrained by the king's fear of the people and his personal respect for the But a birthday feast, given by prisoner. Herod, fully attended by the grandees, afforded Herodias her opportunity. She sent her daughter, Salome, into the banquet hall to play the ignoble rôle of a danseuse. The half-tipsy king bade her name her reward, and when she demanded "the head of John the Baptist in a charger," the king, though sorry, felt bound by his oaths to give it to her. John was beheaded; his disciples buried his body, and went and told Jesus.

III Ouestions

- 1. From what book and chapters were the lessons taken?
- 2. What was the significance of John's baptism?
- 3. Why did Jesus desire to be baptized by John?
- 4. Describe the circumstances and significance of the event.
 - 5. Why was Jesus tempted?
 - 6. How could He be tempted?
- 7. What were the force and method of the first temptation, and how was it defeated?
- 8. Describe the second temptation. How was it repelled?
- 9. Explain the manner, meaning and result of the third temptation.
- 10. Describe the call of the four disciples at the Sea of Galilee.
- 11. What was said about our Lord's Galllean ministry?
- 12. Enumerate the classes of the truly

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13. What selfish motive in the exercise of prayer did our Lord rebuke?

14. What " vain repetitions " did He forbid, and why?

15. Why was the Lord's Prayer given?

Why is it impossible to serve both God and Mammon ?

17. What lesson did our Lord derive from the "fowls of the air?" from "the lilies?"

18. Why should we refrain from worldly anxiety?

19. What should we "seek first," and why?

20. Tell about Matthew and his call.

21. What criticism did the Pharisees make of Jesus at Matthew's feast, and how was it answered?

22. How was the question about fasting

23. What authority was given to the apostles when first sent forth?

24. To what field were they restricted?

25. What was the burden of their instruction?

26. Upon what cities were " woes " pronounced, and why?

With what heathen cities were they 27. compared, and in what way?

28. How were the "babes" favored, as compared with the "wise and prudent?"

29. What invitation did Christ give, to whom, and on what grounds?

30. What complaint did the Pharisees make about the disciples?

31. How did Jesus defend them?

32. What lotty assertions did He make?

33. How did our Lord defend His miracle of healing on the Sabbath the man with the withered hand?

34. Tell the story of the wheat and tares.

35. What are meant by "the enemy," the "wheat," the "tares," the "harvest?"

36. What is the special teaching of the parable?

37. Why did Herod confound Jesus with John the Baptist?

38. Tell why John rebuked Herod.

39. What occurred at Herod's feast?

THE MINISTRY FOR THE TIMES

[The following is a portion of an address deliver by Dr. Maclaren, of Manchester, Eng., at the installation of a colleague to a church in his city.]

EXPERIENCE showed that wherever a church was opened and a live man put into the pulpit - one who would resist the temptations of this generation to sensationalism and to turning churches and chapels into places of entertainment and concertrooms, and who would preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ as if he believed it and thought that it was of some consequence that the copie to whom he was speaking should believe it, too - that man would gather the people round about him. Quoting Dr. Johnson's saying that " nothing odd lasts," Dr. Maclaren said that it was the old-fashioned Gospel, not mumbled, but rung out by a man that believed it, and who was not afraid to put it straight and into Saxon words, that would draw, and hold, and convert, and save people. He did not believe in preaching that was so profound that it could not be understood by the people who heard it. Quoting in an impressive manner the opening verse of St. John's Gospel, the speaker said he of no deeper truths than were contained in these words, and he knew of none simpler, for they were almost all monosyllables. If preachers would stick to simplicity, they would get people to hear their mes-

But in addition to this the churches needed more elasticity in their met nods. They were

so desperately afraid of new things. The shoddy antiquity of the Nonconformist churches, none of which was more than two centuries old, was not a thing to be regarded as if it was as sacred as the Ark of the Cov enant, which it would be blasphemy to interfere with; and it seemed to him that if their churches, while avoiding sensationalism, would follow the tendencies of the times and learn lessons of wisdom as to methods from the things that were round about them, we should see fewer empty chapels. He went in for the two things - absolute unalterable ness in the substance of the preaching, and the utmost freedom and flexibility in the manner and method of a church's work.

Referring to a suggestion that the minister should interest himself in civic matters, Dr. Maclaren uttered a word of caution. He would say - not just yet. He believed in a man sticking to his own special work first of all, and after he had got that pretty well in hand, then it would be time to expand. A large proportion of ministerial failures came from a man being, as they said in Scotland, "John Thompson's servant," at the beck and call of every organization. He was disposed to say to such: O man, if you would only stop at bome and read your Bible, and work at your sermons, and let the potsherds of the earth strive with the potsherds; and say, I am doing a great work, I cannot come down; "This one thing I do!" The danger of the Nonconformist ministry today was much rather in the direction of undue dissipation of energy than of undue concentra-tion of effort. I think, said the Docto: in closing, it is Oliver Wendell Holmes or Thackeray who says, "If you go into a minister's study and find that there is a bare piece on the carpet in front of his chair, get him to pray for you, but if you find the bare place in front of his looking glass you pray for him." That is a very condensed way of put ting, with modern drapery about it, the o'd truth that the secret of power is having a grip of the hand of God. I pray that all of us who fill the same office in various communions may know where our strength is, and may use the strength that He gives.

CHILDREN'S FOOD

" Many children at school," said a student of children, "appear to be stupid when they are only badly nourished. They may have plenty to eat without a sufficient amount of nourishment. Study will not hurt a healthy child. Good, hard thinking helps the circulation of the blood."

It might be added that the lack of nourish ment is owing to ill-advised selection of food. Fruit, eggs, some meat, and good entire wheat bread with butter, all furnish excellent food for children.

Never, under any circumstances, should they be allowed to have coffee. All narcotics, like cigarettes or tobacco in any form, coffee, optum products, or any of that class of drugs, will most sadly scar the whole life of the growing child. Those who seek to assist the little ones to grow up strong and healthy men and women will look carefully after their food and drink.

It is unfortunately true that some parents are careless and ignorant on this subject and the innocent children grow up weak in body and brain, easily knocked over by most any disease that comes along. Children like a warm nourishing drink for breakfast, and almost universally like Postum Food Coffee, upon which they fatten and flourish famous ly. Parents should see that it be boiled full 15 minutes after boiling commences. It is not sufficient that it has stood on the stove 15 minutes - it must boil that length of time.

The long boiling is necessary to bring out the delicious flavor and the nutritious food elements.





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BOSTON.

THE CONFERENCES

EAST MAINE CONFERENCE

Bangor District

Atkinson and Sebec. — At the quarterly meeting, Feb. 9, two persons were baptized. There was a large congregation and marked interest. The people regret that they must lose their pastor, Rev. W. H. Patten, at the end of this year. He has arranged to take a course in Drew Theological Seminary. The list of subscribers for Ziox's Hebald has been increased. Benevolences will be met in full. A new parsonage has been purchased at a great bargain, on which there will remain a very small debt, and the work generally will be left in most excellent condition for the next pastor, who will be greeted by a most loyal and heroic people. Fortunate the man who may be appointed to this charge!

Bangor, First Church.— Rev. J. E. Fischer, of Easton, has been assisting the pastor in revival meetings. The interest has been increasingly good. The church has been quickened, the congregations have been large, and quite a number have sought the Lord. Rev. H. E. Foss, the pastor, is very happy in his work, and the church greatly appreciates him and is advancing in all things that constitute a healthy and strong church. A good sister just deceased has bequeathed quite an amount of money to this church.

Brownville and Henderson.— Rev. W. E. Greene has been the pastor here only a few months, but has greatly endeared himself to the people. There is a growing interest, and we feel sure there are good things in store for this charge.

Dexter and Ripley. — Three delightful days were spent with the pastor, Rev. J. F. Haley, and his royal and excellent people. The quarterly conference unanimously and heartily asked his return for the fourth year. Excellent financial reports were given. We expect an advance in benevolences this year. The question of a new church is still open, but the people are of one mind, and the work will be begun, we are confident, when the woolen mills start up, which, we trust, will be very soon.

The Ministerial Association met here, Feb. 21 and 22, and although the weather and traveling were the worst possible, eight ministers were present, and remarkably good congregations greeted them. Rev. F. E. White, a former pastor, was in attendance and was greatly enjoyed. Rev. N. La Marsh sang and preached and debated, to the great delight of all. The occasion will long be remembered by all present as pleasant and inspiring. Revs. E. A. Carter, D. B. Dow, F. E. White and N. La Marsh preached excellent sermons.

Exeter and Corinna. — Rev. E. A. Carter, the pastor, is nearing the end of his third year on this charge. He has had many hindrances with which to contend, the most notable being a debt on the parsonage which amounted to more than the buildings were worth. Measures had been taken to sell the property, and but for the protests of the presiding elder this doubtless would have been done. This winter a man of some wealth was happily converted to God. He is now sick, but we hope not unto death. We called a trustee meeting at 2 p. m., and as a part of the debt was due this man, the writer, with the pastor, visited him, and after a season of prayer and pleasant conversation we asked: "What shall we say to the trustees this afternoon?" He answered: the trustees this afternoon?" He an "Tell them they owe me \$400, and I will draft any time for the rest of the debt if they will reduce it to \$900, and they shall never be troubled for the same." When we announced this to the for the same." When we announced this to the trustees there were tears of joy and expressions of gratitude seldom manifest. The balance was provided for on the spot, and a surplus with which to paint the buildings and put in a new front with a handsome inscription: "The Alonzo B. Dearborn Memorial M. E. Parsonage"—a worthy tribute to a descrying brother. The pasworthy tribute to a deserving brother. The pastor and family are to be congratulated, for it is largely due to their patience, perseverance and godly living. Corinna charge is surely coming. Exeter, we trust, will take courage.

Guilford and Sangerville.— The pastor, Rev. D. B. Dow, is enjoying his people and work. "We want no change this year" is the unanimous verdict from the charge. Congregations and Sunday-school have nearly doubled and are still growing. His sermons are instructive and interesting, and those who have been once are sure to go again. The reunion and roll-call, Feb. 18, was a benediction to the church. Many re-

sponded by word or letter. The trustees are having plans drawn for a complete transformation of the church edifice, and every department looks up. Benevolences are raised in full.

Houlton. — The occasion of the Ministerial Association and Epworth League convention was a time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. The storm prevented some from being present, but the papers were excellent and the discussions spirited. There is evidence of growing interest, and most excellent reports will greet us at the coming Conference. Rev. D. B. Phelan, the pastor, is alert to all the interests of the church.

Limestone.— Rev. D. R. Pierce and wife are holding revival meetings here, and at last reports there was a very deep interest. The church was being greatly blessed, several conversions had occurred, and they were looking for even greater displays of God's power. This is the kind of work needed to make this a very promising charge.

Monson, Swedish Missions.—We are pained to learn that the pastor, Rev. H. G. Boivie, has had a throat trouble so severe that he could not sing and could speak only with difficulty. He fears that the climate is too rigorous for his health. He has, however, so endeared himself to his people that they have sent in a petition signed, we think, by every member of his church, for his return. We sincerely hope his health may improve so that he will deem it safe to remain another year.

Oldrown.—This charge has been greatly blessed of late. There have been several conversions. Both Epworth and Junior Leagues are doing most excellent work. The pastor, Rev. C. L. Banghart, is especially happy in the management of these departments. The singing has improved, and all departments of church work are well cared for.

Orono and Stillwater. — The many friends of Rev. T. F. Jones, the pastor, will rejoice to know that he is steadily improving from the injuries received in the railroad accident near the above station. He is now able to sit up a little, and we trust will soon be about his work again. He is hopeful and happy, and appreciates all expressions of love and sympathy from his brethren, although he is not yet able to see them. The work is being well cared for during his sickness, and the reports at Conference will be good, notwithstanding his disability.

Patten.—The reports rendered by the fourth quarterly conference officials showed a very healthy and growing condition of all departments of the work. The pastor's report gave a resume of the five years he has been with this people. Fifty-eight have been received into full connection, and at present there is a membership of 137. The Sunday-school numbers more than one hundred, and the average attendance for December was 73. The finances are well in hand. Benevolences are paid in full, with a surplus for the missionary debt.

E. H. B.

Bucksport District

Eastport. — We have just had a very pleasant and profitable session of our Association for the eastern division of the district in the most eastern city of the United States — Eastport. When it was first named as a place for the mid-winter gathering, there were some who felt it would be a mistake to go there because it is so far away for many of the preachers and at this season of the year so hard to reach; but "fortune favors the brave," and in this instance, as well as many others, favored the ministers. Monday, Feb. 28, was a beautiful day for the preachers to make the journey eastward, and at nightfall a goodly num-ber were present, so the opening service insured success. During the session there were ten Methodist preachers (two from the New Brunswick Conference), two Congregational, two Baptist, one Unitarian, and two local preachers present. The papers read were very interesting and helpful, reflecting great credit upon those who prepared and them, and each subject was ably and thoroughly discussed. The following were the topics oughly discussed. The following were the topics:
"Ought One who Contemplates the Ministry to
Defer Preaching until he has Completed a Theological Course?" "The Increase of Crime in our
Country: its Causes and its Cure;" "What Makes a Nation Prosperous?" "The Importance of Zion's Herald, and How shall we Increase its Circulation?" "What Kind of Ministers the People Want." In the discussion of the "The Imporfourth topic many kind words were said for the HERALD and its management, but it was the conviction of all that if it were possible safely to reduce the price it could be introduced into many

more homes. A part of one afternoon session was devoted to an impressive memorial service for Frances E. Willard, in which all the pastors of the city, with members of the Association and the president of the local Union, took part. This meeting of the Association proved not only helpful to the preachers, but of great profit to the society and friends who entertained us. The next session will be held at East Machias, "Jacksonville," and the pastor of the church at that place, with the pastors at Machias and Columbia Falls, were made a committee to arrange a program for that meeting.

The year at Eastport has been in many ways a successful one, considering the dull times financially, of which all complain. All back bills have been paid or provided for, and nearly as much paid on this year's support as usual at this season of the year. One has been received into full membership, and one new subscriber for Ziox's Heald and one for the Christian Advocate have been secured. The Epworth League and Sunday-school are in a flourishing condition, as is the Junior League under the superintendency of the pastor's wife.

Lubec. — Rev. T. A. Hodgdon in closing his second year with this society, and all who know anything of the work on this charge do not hesitate to say it has been the better of the two. Mr. Hodgdon has succeeded in getting some of the most promising young people of the village interested in church work and into the church, thus bringing in young blood and encouraging some of the faithful ones who for years have borne the burdens of the work. Under the leadership of Mr. C. H. Case, one of the new members, the Epworth League and Sunday-school are putting on new strength and doing a valuable work for God and the church.

West Lubec and Strait Bay. — Although Rev. O. C. Smith is a young man in the ministry — this being his first year — we find he has made a commendable beginning. There are many things to discourage one at this place, yet in the midst of it all he and a faithful few have toiled on. Nine have requested prayers during the year, six of whom have given good evidence of conversion, one has been baptized, and there are three who will in all probability be received into full membership before Conference. A "Young People's Society" has been organized, which is doing good. One subscriber to Zion's Herald has been secured.

Edmunds and Marion. — Rev. G. R. Moody has put in earnest and faithful work on this charge, and although he has not seen the results his heart has longed for, he has some fruitage to show. Four have requested prayers, and nearly \$100 has been expended in money and labor on the parsonage property. A series of meetings have been held at South Edmunds and Marion,



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with encouraging results. Mr. Moody has organized the children into classes at Edmunds and South Edmunds for the study of the Catechism of our church, and already this work is telling among the little ones. It is our opinion that there is no more encouraging or hopeful work than that among the children. Would it not be well for all who do not have a Junior League to thus organize the children and give them an hour each Saturday afternoon? We believe it will be valuable work for the Master and will tell for Him and His cause later on.

MAINE CONFERENCE

Portland District

Personat. — The funeral services in memory of tev. J. M. Woodbury were held in the chapel at Old Orchard on Saturday forencon, Feb. 28. A prayer was offered at the house by Presiding Elder Thayer. The services at the chapel were in charge of the pastor, Rev. F. Grovenor. Scripture selections were read by Revs. H. Chase and ure selections were read by Revs. H. Chase and J. H. Roberts, and prayer offered by Rev. F. C. Rogers. Remarks were made by Revs. I. Luce, L. H. Bean, J. W. Lewis, and E. O. Thayer, and an obituary was read by Rev. F. Grovenor. Rev. Geo. C. Andrews made the closing prayer, and Rev. W. Canham pronounced the benediction. Appropriate selections were rendered by a male t, consisting of Revs. E. C. Strout, J. R. Clifford, W. F. Berry and Wm. Cashmore.

Biddeford and Saco. - The pastors, Revs. C. W. Bradlee and E. C. Strout, have recently taken a bold stand in their pulpits in favor of the strikers in the cotton mills. They regard the cut-down in wages as indefensible on any grounds. The majority of the best citizens take the same position and are materially aiding the strikers.

Cornish. - The quarterly conference, sustained by the congregation and townspeople, earnestly and unanimously desire the return of the Rev. G. F. Miliward. He has been nompastor, inated for supervisor of schools. The church is in a prosperous condition, especially on spiritual lines. The people are trying to pay their bills without suppers and fairs and kindred abominations.

Kezar Falls. - Rev. James Nixon has in one year gained a strong hold upon the people of this place, and they desire his return. The Methodist church is the only one in town, with the exception of an Advent chapel without a preacher, and ought to be strong and prosperous to the highest degree. The pastor has worked hard and seen some results.

Portland. - A union love-feast was held at Pine St. Church on Tuesday evening, March 1. Large delegations came from Congress St. and Chestnut St. churches. The meeting was full of spiritual power and will have a large part in more thoroughly unifying Portland Methodism.

Pleasantdale. - Rev. J. H. Roberts had the misfortune to fall from a staging on the new church, breaking his wrist. He bravely insists that the accident shall not keep him from his work. The outside of the church is now being painted and the interior is nearly ready for the plasterers.

South Eliot and Kittery, First Church. - The two Epworth Leagues upon this circuit are growing in numbers and usefulness. The churches could not spare them. Congregations have increased, and the pastor, Rev. E. W. Kennison, is much encouraged. The people desire his return another year.

Eliot. - The League gave the presiding elder a very pleasant reception. Music, refreshments and sociability made the evening a very agreeable change from the ordinary business routine. There have been twenty-seven conversions this year. The whole church and community request Rev. F. C. Potter's return. The League has been reorganized with a pledge for both active and associate members.

West Scarboro. - This charge has reached "class first" in the missionary column, and has met all apportionments. The people are ready to do large things to retain Rev. J. W. Lewis.

Goodwin's Mills. - This church has recently purchased one of the best Epworth organs. Congregations have more than doubled this year, and the spiritual life of the church, as manifested in the social meetings, is growing.

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Lewiston District

Andover. - On account of ill health, Rev. W. C. Wentworth has been obliged to resign his charge here and seek work more congenial to health. He has become managing editor of a small paper in New York city, whither he and Mrs. Went-worth have removed. Rev. E. T. Baventyen, a local preacher from Bath, has become pres in charge at Andover, and is already established in the parsonage and hard at work in the parish.

North Conway and Bartlett, N. H. - The heavy storm of Feb. 1 overtook your correspondent at Pendexter Mansion, Intervale, at the close of the fourth quarterly conference. With engagements for every night in the week, we were prevented by the heavy snowfall from holding any meet-

Rev. Walter Russell has assisted the pastors at North Conway in a series of union meet-ings, resulting in the conversion of more than a score of persons, Five probationers have been added to our church; four persons have with-

Conway, N. H. - Rev. J. H. Trask is closing a pleasant and successful year. A good revival has been in progress at South Conway, in which nearly fifty people have been converted and reclaimed. A praying band of thirty-five members has been organized and a class established. The chapel has been shingled and a new organ purchased. We preached to an audience of sixty here on Monday, Feb. 7. A year ago it would have been impossible to secure even a small au-

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dience upon such a night. The Lord's work is in a good condition at Conway Centre also, several converts having been won here.

South Auburn. - Extra meetings were held for several weeks, Rev. A. W. Waterhouse and others assisting the pastor. Attendance upon these meetings and upon the regular Sunday services has been good. Rev. O. L. Stone, in this his first year in the ministry, has wrought well.

Baldwin and Hiram. - During his three years' pastorate in this charge Rev. R. S. Leard has neen fifty-seven conversions. Twenty-three nembers have been added to the church, and other converts have joined elsewhere. Mrs. Leard has zealously and devotedly seconded her husband in his multiplied labors, and has won the love and esteem of the communities com prised in the charge.

Frueburg and Stow. - We found Pastor Bragg ani family comfortably housed in the new par-sonage at the "Harbor." By the by, isn't it a strange freak that the one post-office in the en-tire State called *Harbor* should be a hamlet situated more than forty miles from the sea on the banks of the " old Saco ?

Cumberland and Falmouth .- The return of Rev. J. B. Howard is the unanimous desire of his church and people; some of the most pron inent people in the charge, not members of the church, having expressed their desire in wri-ing. Nearly \$150 have been expended upon parage and churches.

Rethel. - The Lewiston District Ministerial Association held an interesting session at Bethel, Feb. 14-16, with twenty-three ministers in attendance. Tuesday was observed as the one dredth anniversary of Bethel Methodism. G. B. Haun ford's paper on Oxford County Methodism, and Rev. Alexander Hamilton's paper on Betael Methodism, were of special interest. The local press devoted several columns, in two separate issues, to the full account of this meeting. Several brethren coming from a distance in sleighs were snowbound until Saturday.

The pastor received one member in full, Feb. 20, and another - his own daughter Alice - upon probation.

North Newry, which has had no regular preaching services for over two years, has made request that a pastor be furnished them. It is hoped that some adjustment may be made to meet their request.

Bridgton has witnessed a notable work of grace under the faithful efforts of Capt. Leslie and his band of crusaders. Between forty and fifty were onverted. Eighteen persons have been rec upon probation, and two have joined by letter. Bridgton has a home department of the Sunday-school numbering 35 members. A hundred dollars have been expended in shingling the church. The debt upon the parsonage has been reduced to \$580. Much interest is manifested in every department of church work. The pastor's re-turn is desired by everybody. Mr. Hoit was one of the snowbound visitors at Bethel who did not reach home until sunset Saturday night.

We called upon Rev. W. H. Barber and family and are glad to report him in improving health. He preached with great acceptance for the be-lated pastor, Sunday morning. Feb. 20. He hopes to be able to take work this spring.

Naples. - Nearly a score of people have been onverted in the school-house meetings held by Pastor Peare at South Naples and East Sebago. Regular preaching services are desired another year at these points; and no preacher would receive a more cordial welcome than Rev. H. A. Peare, the present appointee.

A large part of the territory of Maine Conference is snowed under to the depth of four feet, endering church and parish work difficult March is already here, and the snow-fields are melting away. We all hope to see you, Mr. Editor, at Norway a month later. JUNIOR.

NEW HAMPSHIRE CONFERENCE

Concord District

Concord, Baker Memorial. - Rev. J. H. Emerson, by invitation of the Unitarian pastor, preached a sermon in that church, on Sunday evening, March 6, on the divinity of Christ, which was printed in full in the Concord Monitor of the next day. He plainly declared the truth according to the way Methodists believe it. At the co munion service of that date 32 were received into the church, of whom 20 were from probation. This is in addition to 31 received between the third and fourth quarter's reports. Special services have been held for some weeks and still con-

and March 20 will be devoted to missions

Laconia is taking on spiritual strength. The united efforts of the evangelical pastors have produced good results. We reported some time go that about one hundred had started. March 6, Rev. A. L. Smith received 19 on probation, 2 by letter (of whom one is a new convert), and 1 in full. That evening one more sought the Lord. The union meetings, that had been suspended for a time, have begun again, and all are hopeful of good results.

Rumney. - A fair year's work has been done at this place. The Epworth League has now 73 members. The lecture course has been well patronized and very interesting. Rev. W. F. elch is pastor.

Ellsworth and West Thornton. places we rode over snowdrifts five feet deep, hile at Manchester every vehicle is on wheels The work here is in excellent condition and every one enthusiastic for the pastor's return. At Ellsworth the claim is met within \$7 and all that is on subscription. The presiding elder was paid in full, with some money left over. At West Thornton the make-up of the society is not so thoroughly Methodistic, and matters are some what behind, but it looks as if they would all be brought up. The pastor, Rev. A. P. Reynolds, has taken all the benevolent collections, with probably a single exception.

Ashland. - This plucky little society feels very badly over the prospect of losing Rev. J. A. Bowler by not being connected with Plymouth another year; but they will do their best to care Plymouth people, for a man by themselves. many of them, feel that they need all there is to one man in their own town. The Ashland society has a property worth at its cost price \$3,500, with a debt of only \$748. All this within a year. They

March 13 is to be Sunday-school rally day, have a good congregation and Sunday-school, and we believe that in good hands they will continue to grow.

> - Rev. J. A. Bowler has been invited to return a third year. This charge begins to feel the losses of some of its strongest men who have worked hard and paid well. Mr. Clark is quite feeble, and Mr. Mason is now very sick, and others have left them. They want to keep up the present standard if possible. The pastor has received between twenty and thirty on probation as the result of the special meetings in the fall. The finances of the year are all in sight. Repairs must be made on the property the coming season, and for this a committee has been appointed.

N. E. SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

New Bedford District

New Bedford, County St. - March 6, the pastor Rev. J. F. Cooper, received 5 on probation and baptized 4 adults.

New Bedford, Allen St. - March 6, Rev. J. N. Patterson received 3 into full membership and 3 on probation. During the three weeks of special meetings recently held, nine professed conversion and the church was much helped. At the conference Mr. Patterson was fourth quarterly unanimously invited to return.

Fall River, Brayton Memorial Church. - The Epworth League is a help to the pastor, Rev. R. M. Wilkins, and supports him in the evening service Sundays. Miss Stella M. Bounds, the deaconess, at the head of the Mercy and Help department, is making that branch of the work very efficient. The Sunday-school in the new church is increasing in numbers; there are now nineteen classes, besides the primary. The attendance Feb. 27 was 292, the largest in the history





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of the school. The average attendance is 253. The new church is already a centre of attraction.

A change in the hour of the preaching service from afternoon to 11.30 A. M. — has been made. The Sunday-school meets now at 10.15, thus bringing its members into the preaching service and about doubling the congregation. March 6. 5 were received into the church - 3 by letter and 2 from probation. It is hoped that plans now in progress will speedily result in the furnishing of the auditorium. Mr. Jones Sunderland, a housefurnishing merchant, has given one dozen chairs, and through his influence Mr. C. W. Allen, of Boston, has given another dozen for the singers. The pastor has been unanimously invited to return for the fifth year.

Bourne. - The second lecture on the history of Methodism, by the pastor, Rev. R. E. Schuh, Sun day evening, March 6, was very interesting and much enjoyed.

Taunton, First Church. - Rev. W. A. Luce has a hearty and unanimous invitation to return for a second year.

Cottage City. — The vote on the license question here is remarkable. Last year it stood 61 for, 81 against; now it stands 60 for, 61 against. row escape. What does this portend for next year?

Taunton, Grace Church, - At the Frances E. emorial service Rev. B. F. Simon spoke Willard m on Miss Willard as a Christian. Mr. Simon has a unanimous invitation to return for a second year

Vineyard Haven. — The debt on the parsonage, amounting to \$200, has been paid through the efforts of the pastor, Rev. J. E. Duxbury. Local notes in the Martha's Vineyard Herald speak very highly of the pulpit and other work of Mr.

Orleans. - A union service for the relief of starving Cubans was held in this church. March 13. Rev. G. O. Thompson presided.

Falmouth .- The fiftieth anniversary of the Falouth Church was held in the church and chapel, Feb. 22. The Ladies' Aid Society had arranged a program, at the close of which they served a de-licious supper. At 8 o'clock the house was filled to its utmost capacity. The congregation sang, "I love Thy kingdom, Lord," after which Rev. Chas. S. Thurber led in prayer. The pastor, Rev. R. H. Schuett, gave the address of welcome. Rev. F. L. Streeter, of Providence, made some interesting remarks concerning the past of the church. He was pastor for two years at Falmouth, and his address was much appreciated by his many friends. Rev. C. S. Thurber, of East Falmouth, compared

Methodism of today with that of fifty years ago. The music was furnished by the Methodist male quartet of Falmouth and the Misses Hammond of Fall River. The decorations were very fine, tropical plants covering the entire platform. The universal verdict was that it was a complete success. The church has a splendid working force in its Ladies' Aid Society, and to them entirely is due all praise. The church was never in a better condition than today. Falmouth Methodists are optimistic and are expecting still better days.

Brockton and Vicinity

Brockton, Central Church. - The arrangement by which this charge has been temporarily filled by Rev. A. H. Keeler since Dr. Melden's release proven a satisfactory one. Several weeks of were devoted to special religious the winter services which were stimulating to the spiritual life of the church and fruitful of a considerable number of conversions. One of the daily papers announces that Dr. M. S. Kaufman is expected to become pastor of Central Church in April, "if the expressed wish of the society and the recom-mendation of the presiding elder are respected, as they probably will be, by the Bishop."

Brockton, Franklin Church. - The pastor, Rev. J. W. Morris, rejoices with his people in signs of prosperity. During the last month 17 persons have been received on probation and 1 to full membership. The recent converts are giving evidence that their pocket-books are consecrated to the Lord's work. A League orchestra has been organized and is found to be a valuable accessory.

Brockton, Pearl Street. - Under rather discouraging circumstances the pastor, Rev. N. C. Alger, and his people are holding the fort. The stormy month of February interfered with the public services very much. The exodus to the far West still continues. One of the members of the board of trustees started a few days ago for the Klondike gold fields to join others who have gone before.

Brockton, South St. (Campello). - A meeting of the Brockton Epworth Union was held in this church on the evening of Feb. 22. A large company of Leaguers were present to listen to an in-spiring address on "The League in the Leaguer," by Rev. W. T. Perrin, of Boston. A very interesting and financially profitable art exhibition was given recently, the material used being a set of fifty art productions furnished by the publishers of the Ladies' Home Journal, Mr. George R. Percy opened his new home, a short time since, to the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, who invited their friends to come and spend with them
"An Hour in China." Eight young ladies, members of the Epworth League, have formed a mu-sical organization known as the "Young Ladies Octette," and are making themselves very useful. The reports presented to the fourth quarterly conference were indicative of prosperity. The money raised during the year has exceeded the current expenses, the surplus being applied on the debts. The Leyden Park mission is in a pros-perous condition, with a growing attendance. By a unanimous vote the reappointment of the pastor, Rev. O. W. Scott, for another year was requested.

Everything is moving prosperously on this charge. The Epworth League held a birthday social," March 9. A pleasing enteron this charge. tainment was given by the little folks. The financial profit was \$32, and this sum was turned into the church tressury. The fourth quarterly conference was held March 2. The reports showed that the interests of the church had been well cared for. All the current expenses were nearly aid and all the benevolent collections had been taken, and there was no church debt to report. A most hearty and unanimous invitation was given to the pastor, Rev W. B. Heath, to continue as pastor for a third year.

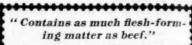
Bridgewater .- Our church has united with others in the town, during the past month, in a series of no-license meetings. A course of entertainments is being given and is proving profitable in more ways than one. One member has been received on probation within a month. The church desires that Rev. R. C. Grose, the present pastor, shall be appointed to Bridgewater for another year.

South Braintree. - Rev. W. H. Allen has been ill with pneumonia for five weeks, but was able to preach on Sunday, Feb. 27.

East Bridgewater. - A temperance mass-meet. ing was held in this church on Sunday evening, March 6, as a means of rallying the no-license voters of the town. The meeting was addressed by ex-Mayor Williamson, of Brockton, and the al pastors.

Hanover. - Two accessions to the church are reported this month. The vestry has been en larged at an expense of \$50, and 150 new books have been added to the Sunday-school library.

East Weymouth. - Our church rejoices with the others of the town in the strong no-license



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which followed the active anti-saloon campaign recently conducted by citizens of the town. Every precinct contributed to the two-thirds majority by which the victory was won. The aggressive work was done mainly by the pastors and laymen of the churches. Every Protestant clergyman in the town, save one who was sick, was active in the campaign, and some of the Roman Catholic priests gave substantial aid. Rev. B. F. Simon gave his excellent lecture on "Tenant and Tenement; or, Substance and Shadow in Human Nature," before the Epworth League on the evening of March 9. On the eve of his birthday the president of the Epworth League, Myron P. Ford, was surprised by an unannounced visit from a number of the members of the League who presented him with a handsome and durable copy of the International Teacher's Bible.

East Weymouth, Porter Church.—The main auditorium has been very much improved in appearance by having the walls tastefully decorated by skillful painters. A considerable sum has also been paid to reduce an old debt.

East Braintree.—Two persons received on probation and two to full membership, one from probation and one by certificate, are part of the record of Sunday, March 6.

IRVING.

NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE

South District

Swedish Tabernacle, Boston. — Presiding Elder Mansfield held the fourth quarterly conference, March 6. The church has had good success during the year, and many have been converted. The return of the pastor, Rev. H. Hanson, for the fifth year is unanimously requested. After the conference Dr. Mansfield preached an illustrated sermon to a crowded house.

St John's Church, South Boston.—On Wednesday and Thursday evenings, Feb. 23 and 24, the Epworth League of this church held a festival. The work of each department was illustrated in unique ways—the Spiritual department by a life-saving station, with boat and apparatus; the Mercy and Help by an exhibit of fruit, flowers, preserves, and other things used in their work; the Literary by Bible helps and curios illustrating the work of our normal Bible class; the Social by an ice-cream parlor and lemonade table. The treasurer displayed a fine collection of coins, and had purses for sale suitably inscribed to encourage systematic giving. A roll-call table with the names of the members illustrated in suggestive ways was a centre of attraction. An excellent entertainment was furnished each evening. Thursday afternoon tea was served to the ladies of the church. The festival netted about \$35, and was pronounced a success.

South Walpole. - On Sunday, March 6, as the result of revival meeting, 8 were baptized, 11 received on probation, and 1 by profession of faith. On Monday evening, Feb. 28, a missionary meeting was held. There were readings from missionary literature, singing appropriate hymns, and an address on missions, after which the results of two weeks of self-denial were gathered in, which with previous offerings will more than double the collections of last year. Congregations are increasing and a hopeful spirit prevails. Rev. J. P. West, pastor.

Uzbridge.—At the fourth quarterly conference recently held the pastor, Rev. Arthur Dechman, received a unanimous invitation to return for another year. The membership has been increased during the year by 14 received from probation and 9 on probation. The church is in a good condition financially. Oscar E. Murdock was granted a local preacher's license.

Worcester, Trinity. — If Rev. R. F. Holway must go at the end of the year, the people have a choice of successor, and they very much want Rev. F. E. Hamilton, now of Newtonville. He would have a chance to do a great work in this heart of the commonwealth, but it is understood that his present church is unwilling to have him go. Another problem for Bishop and Cabinet!

The Sunday-school board have put W. S. Corey and Ely Nichols on an assistant librarians. Eight

About half the lamp-chimneys in use are Macbeth's.

All the trouble comes of the other half.

But go by the Index.
Write Macbeth Pittsburgh Pa

Chinese were baptized on Sunday, March 6—the first service of this kind to be held here. The missionary auxiliary met with Mrs. Legg. Items on the work and the second chapter of Mrs. Greene's story made plessant entertainment.

Grace. — Just now the chief talk is over the boy choir which for three years has been so prominent a feature here. A few nights ago a sieigh ride was given them to the town of Holden, where a hot supper awaited the boys. There is no question as to the quality of the music afforded by them under the lead of Mr. W. E. Healey, but the item of expense is the crowning one. "To be or not to be, that is the question." Thursday night there was a Sunday-school cantata, directed by Supt. C. W. Delano, and a jug-breaking followed which netted a comfortable sum for the cause. The prize for contents was given to Lydia Kirschner, whose receptacle had above four dollars.

The teachers of the Chinese school gave a reception to their pupils. Supper was served to about a hundred. An entertainment was rendered after the supper. Eight were taken on probation Sunday. A leaf social, under the direction of the Epworth League, was held at the parsonage, 11 Walnut St.

Lake View. — Rev. Alonzo Sanderson and Mr. Collemer, the superintendent, with nearly a hundred of the church people, recently visited the home of A. B. F. Kinney, where they viewed a collection of curiosities and listened to a talk on recent travels by Mr. Kinney.

Park Avenue. — Mr. Sanderson begins revival meetings next Tuesday. Rev. Rufus M. Taft is to assist.

Webster Square. — Models of Solomon's Temple and the Tabernacle, made by W. A. Barrows, were shown and explained to the normal class of the Sunday-school. Practical lessons in Bible work are given.

Coral Street. — A talk on Bible study took the place of the Wednesday evening prayer-meeting. A memorial for Frances E. Willard was held here Sunday evening.

Thomas St. — This Swedish member of our body continues to show a most flattering condition of prosperity. Members are admitted every month and activity prevails all along the whole line. But even the eagle must rest, and Pastor Eagle will renew his plumes by a vacation of a month, taken later in the West — a weil-earned respite.

North District

Laseit Seminary, Auburndaie. — The Lasell Instrumental Club entertained their friends at the Seminary last Wednesday evening by a fine concert given in the school gymnasium. The fourth lecture in the course on Gothic Architecture, now being given by Mrs. Anne Sawyer Downs of Andover, was delivered on Thursday evening. Rev. A. B. Kendig, D. D., lectures the evening of March 17, his subject being, "Myself."

Sudbury. — The church at this place was rededicated on Sunday, Feb. 20. Presiding Elder Eaton conducted the afternoon service, and Rev. L. B. Bates, D. D., of Boston, preached the dedicatory sermon. The Congregational and Unitarian pastors participated in the exercises. It was announced that the pipe organ was the gift of Miss Clara J. Hunt, of Sudbury. In the evening Rev. W. I. Haven, of Brookline, preached. Rev. W. G. Soaman is the pastor.

Worthen St., Lowell. — At the fourth quarterly conference, held Feb. 26, the pastor, Rev. E. T. Curnick, D. D., was invited to return for a fifth year. Reports showed the church to be in a good spiritual and financial condition.

Hudson. — At the fourth quarterly conference, held last week, Rev. D. H. Ela, D. D., the pastor, was unanimously invited to return for the next

Westboro. — At the last communion service, Sunday, March 6, 2 were baptized, 4 were received on probation, 2 into full connection from probation, and 2 by letter. A deficit of \$400 has been raised within the past few weeks, which fully meets the current expenses for the year just closing. A committee is now at work securing pledges for another year, and a special effort is being made to guard against a deficit at the end of the year. The work of soliciting for the new church is also being pushed forward. Rev. Putam Webber, pastor.

Woburn.— The fourth quarterly conference unanimously requested the return of the pastor, dev. I. H. Packard. The past year has been one of harmony and of marked gain along all lines. The pastor has the warmest love and appreciation of a united people who have felt specially

profited by his ministrations. They will enter on the coming year with courage and with the anticipation of continued and increasing pros-

Auburndale. — March 6 was a day of marked interest, 47 persons being welcomed at the altar of the church — 34 into full membership on confession of faith, and 13 on probation. A growing spiritual interest prevails. No special meetings have been held, but in addition to the regular work and services, neighborhood Bible-readings have been given during the winter, which have awakened deep interest. At the fourth quarterly conference, March 10, strong resolutions of commendation and appreciation of both the pastor, Rev. C. H. Talmage, and his wife were passed by a unanimous rising vote, and also in the same manner an urgent request for Mr. Talmage to return for the third year.

East Pepperell.—On the debt \$1,050 has been paid, a legacy of \$1,000 having been left by the late H. C. Winslow. A steam heater, the "Volunteer," with nine radiators, has been put into the parsonage, and a bath-room is being fitted up. A concrete walk has been put in at the side of the church, and from the parsonage to the church. The benevolent collections have advanced \$100, and the assets on current expenses have been ahead of the liabilities nearly all the year. Extra evangelistic meetings are being held. The pastor, Rev. C. H. Hanaford, has a unanimous vote of the quarterly conference to return for another year.

East District

Trinity, Lynn. — The pastor, Rev. M. G. Prescott, is hard at work. Since Conference 15 have been received on probation and 14 in full connection. Sunday evening, March 6, five requested prayers. This makes nine persons who have started within two weeks. The church and vestries have been beautifully frescoed and much needed repairs made, and the debt is being rapidly paid.

H.

West Distric

Springfield, Asbury. - The reports at the fourth quarterly conference showed the church to be in

La Grippe Cured

This modern malady has become dreaded not more for its direct fatality than for the weakness of body and mind it leaves behind it. Prolonged debility, permanent prostration, melancholy and suicide follow La Grippe. For this disease there is no remedy superior to Ayer's Cherry Pectoral.

"The best remedy for la grippe that I know of is Ayer's Cherry Pectoral."

REV. JOHN K. CHASE, South Hampton, N. H.

"My wife and five children were taken down with la grippe, while the disease was so widely prevalent. I dosed them with Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, and before using quite two bottles my family was restored to health. I know of several obstinate cases of the same complaint which were also cured by this remedy."

J. PARMINTER,
Paulette, Miss.

"I was cured of la grippe by the use of Ayer's Cherry Pecteral."

C. S. THOMPSON,
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is put up in half-size bottles at half price—50 cents.

excellent condition, the pastor reporting a net gain in membership during the year of 21. The gain in membership during the year of 21. return of Rev. W. J. Heath was unanimously re-

- The annual meeting of the young Trinity. men's Bible class was held at the parsonage on March 2. During the evening the class presented Mrs. Tuckley a fine mahogany table in appreciation of her efficient service of nearly five years as

The City Library Association is having a large and handsome tablet prepared which will serve as a memorial of Dr. William Rice, and also of the three principal founders of the library. It will be of brass with enamel letters, and will have a heavy frame of oak. The inscription will be as follows: "On land given by George Bliss, from funds contributed by citizens of Springfield, stimulated by the zeal of John L. King and Daniel stimulated by the zeal of John L. King and Daniel L. Harris, the first and second presidents of the City Library Association, this building was erected in 1871, and by vote of the directors, May 20, 1892, was dedicated as the William Rice Build-20, 1922, was dedicated as the winsin his building, in honor of the man whose devotion to the city and the institution inspired its erection, and whose service as librarian from 1861 to 1897 filled it with treasures of knowledge and wisdom for the free use of all the people."

The West District Camp-meeting Association held its annual meeting the last week of Febru-ary. The reports showed everything to be in good condition. Several hundred dollars were expended in improvements on the ground last The election of officers resulted as follows: President, A. J. Pease; vice-president, S. F. Bar-rett; secretary, Rev. W. C. Townsend; treasurer, W. C. Wedge; auditor, Rev. R. E. Bisbee.

Enfield. — On Sunday, Feb. 13, the pastor, Rev. W. Ferguson, received 3 by letter and 1 from probation.

Mittineague. — Dr. W. H. Hatch, who is residing in Mittineague with his daughter, is afflicted in the death of his youngest great-grandchild, the seventeen-months-old daughter of W. J. Ray-bold — the particular pet and care of Dr. Hatch. Dr. Hatch is enjoying very good health. At the meeting of the fourth quarterly conference the pastor, Rev. H. B. King, reported 36 additions to the pastor, Rev. H. B. King, reported 36 additions to the pastor of the pastor. tions to the membership during the yearfrom probation and 15 by letter; three have refrom probation and to by letter; three nave removed, making the net gain 33. At the beginning of the present pastorate, three years ago, there were 72 members and three probationers; there are now 116 members in full and 37 probationers.

Belchertown. - For some time there has been a quiet but effective spiritual work in this church, as a result of which many have expressed a desire to live a Christian life. Without excitement there has been steady growth. On March 6 the pastor, Rev. George W. Locke, baptized 8 persons, and received them into the church as probationers. At Dwight's the congregations are good. Whoever may be sent to minister to these wo churches will find harmony and peace among the people and a hearty welcome.

Holyoke Highlands. - On the evening of March Holyoke Highlands.—On the evening of March 5 about ninety of the friends of the pastor and wife, Rev. and Mrs. F. J. Hale, gathered at the parsonage and spent a delightful evening, the occasion being the eighth anniversary of their marriage. Rev. Mr. Winch, of the First Congregational Church, was present, and in a very felicitous manner presented to Mr. and Mrs. Hale a generous sum of money in behalf of the company present, and a very beautiful picture from Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Dean. Several other gifts were presented by individuals.

Westfield, First Church .- At the March communion service 3 persons were received on probation, 4 from probation, 4 by letter, and 1 was baptized. Rev. L. H. Dorchester is pastor.

East Longmeadow .- The pastor's wife, Mrs. E. C. Bridgham, has been for several

Men of Weakened Power, Exhausted Vigor

Weak men suffering from nervous debility, weakened power and exhausted vieor, can now take new hope. Dr. Greene, 34 Temple Place, Boston, Mass., who is without doubt the most successful specialist in curing this class of diseases, offers to give free consultation by mail to all weskened, vigoriess and nerve-exhausted men. You have the privilege of consulting Dr. Greene by letter describing your complaint and he will, after carefully considering your condition, send you free a letter fully explaining all your symptoms, telling you everything about your complaint so plainly that you will understand exactly what alls you. Write to him at once and get back your strength and vigor.

very ill at the home of her father, Rev. Dr. F. K. Stratton, in Lowell. Although for some time critically ill, she is now gaining a little and it is hoped will, in time, be as active as usual. Mr. Bridgham has been with his wife the most of the time for several weeks, and is receiving the help of neighboring pastors in supplying his pulpit.

Holyoke, First Church. - At the fourth quarterly conference Rev. N. B. Fisk, the pastor, ex-pressed a preference for a change of pastorate. His decision was regretted by the church, as the

e that your outfit and complete

books have this Official Stamp

society has increased in membership and financial strength during the three years he has b in Holyoke.

Williamsburg. — Peace and harmony prevail to an unusual degree throughout the church, and the work is steadily progressing. At the fourth quarterly conference a unanimous invitation was extended to the pastor, Rev. H. H. Weyant, to re-turn for another year of service.

If you are not feeling well, why don't you take Hood's Sarsaparilla. It will purify and enrich your blood and do you wonderful good.

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Dr. Greene's Nervura will cure them.

It is, at the present day, the only recognized remedy for these nervous complaints, it is the only medicine which will surely cure them.

Parents, therefore, whose children manifest any symptoms of such impending nervous disorders, like nervousness, irritability, moodiness, irregular appetite, headaches, dizziness, disturbed sleep, restlessless, loes of memory and interest in things, face pale, teet cold, fidgeting with fingers, twitching of eyelids, face, limbs, shoulders, or jerking of head, should at once give this specific cure, Dr. Greene's Nervura. It is perfectly harmless, being made from pure vegetable remedies, wonderful in their health restor

Remember that Dr. Greene's Nervura will prevent, as well as cure, these diseases. Therefore give it at once when the first slight symptoms occur.



Miss Carrie Van Atlen, Erist il. Conn.,

"I feel it a duty I owe Dr. Greene and the public to tell them what Dr. Greene's Nervura blood and nerve remedy has done

"For over seven years I have been what my friends termed an invalid, and for that length of time have been trying different physicians and medicines, all of which proved unavailing. 1 presume Malaria was the cause of my trouble as scarcely two months would elapse without my having chills and fever, which would prostrate me for a long time. In those cases I would resort to quinine in different forms and this sort to quinine in different forms and this would afford transient relief. About two years ago I was taken very suddenly sick, without any apparent cause, with a fainting spell, and from that time have been subject to them, sometimes every week, often two or three a day, after which I would feel simply miserable. I would not be able to sit up, and could not rest if I lay down, and it seemed as if something would sbut my breath off. I could not draw a breath without a groan and would start so I would frighten myself and those around me. My appetite would fail a d then chills would follow. I did not dare to trust myself out to walk or

to church for fear of creating an excitement, for restoratives had to be used to resuscitate me. Only those who have passed through a similar ordeal can imagine the feelings of a young girl under those circumstances. I never thought I could trust myself alone anywhere.

young girl under those circumstances. I never thought I could trust myself alone anywhere.

"We had often heard of Dr. Greene's Nervura blood and nerve remedy: in fact, had known of some cases under our own observation where it had done wonders, but I failed to see in their cases anything similar to mine. I was so tired of medicine that the sight of a bottle and spoon was revolting to me. I said I would not take another drop of anything, but my father prevalled upon me to try one bottle of Dr. Greene's Nervura and see what the effects would be. I did so, and have taken five bottles and I feel like a new person. My fainting spells are so far apart and so slight that I need not speak of them. I have not had a chill since I commenced to take the Nervura. I am still taking it and know I shall be entirely cured for I consider myself better today than I have ever been in seven years. I am recommending Dr. Greene's Nervura to all my friends and thank God that I was led to try this wonderful remedy, Dr. Greene's Nervura blood and nerve remedy."

Dr. Greene, 34 Temple Place, Boston,

edy."
Dr. Greene, 34 Temple Place, Boston, Mass., can be consulted absolutely free in regard to any case, personally or by letter.

CHURCH REGISTER

CONFERENCE	PLACE	TIME		Вівпор
New York,	New York	March	30	Hurat
New York Zast,	Brooklyn	46	30	Malialieu
New England,	Worcester	April	6	Newman
N. E. Southern,	Attleboro	44	13	Vincent
New Hampshire,	Dover	64	13	Newman
Troy,	Saratoga	86	20	Mallalieu
Vermont,	Biringfield	46	20	Vincent
Maine,	Norway	41	20	Cranston
East Maine,	Bangor	44	27	Cranston

NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE - ENTERTAIN-MENT. — Will brethren who have been invited as guests during Conference, and those who have speclair equests as to their entertainment, please no-tify the undersigned as soon as possible; also any who do not expect to be present at the ression.

R. F. HOLWAY.

W. P. M. S. — The Fitchburg District W. F. M. S. will hold a convention at the Methodist Church, Leominster, March 23. Sessions at 10 and 2. Reports from auxiliaries at the morning session. In the afternoon the Branch president, Mrs. C. H. Talmage, is expected, also Miss Ella Glover, a returned

missionary from China.

Basket lunch. A cordial invitation is extended to Mrs. J. A. DUNN, Dist. Sec. all the ladies.

W. F. M. S. — The Tremont St auxiliary of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society will celebrate the twenty-ninth anniversary of the founding of the Society on Sunday morning, March 20, at Tremont St. Church, at 10.30 a.m. Miss Mary A. Danforth will speak.

METHODIST LADIES' AID UNION.—The annual meeting of the Methodist Ladies' Aid Union will be held on Friday, March 25, at the Methodist Church, Woburn. Seesions at 10 and 2 Papers on questions of especial importance will be presented, beside reports of the winter's work and other exercises in the interest of the local societies. Pastors' wires are cordially invited to all meetings of the wives are cordially invited to all meetings of the Basket lunch

Trains leave Union Station at 9.10 a. m. and 1.07 m. F. W. Jones, Cor. Sec.

BOSTON MISSIONARY AND CHURCH EXTEN-SION SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of the Society will be held in Wesleyan Hall, Monday, March 21, at 2 p.m. All contributors to the funds of this Society are members. Very important meet-ing. F. N. UPHAM. Sec.

BOSTON METHODIST SOCIAL UNION. - The regular monthly meeting of the Boston Methodist Social Union will be held at the American House, 50 Hanover St., Monday, March 21, at 5 p. m. Dinner Hanover St., Monday, March 21, at 5 p.m. Dinner will be served PROMPTLY at 6 39. The following question will be discussed: "Should the Stewards of Our Church be Electéd by the Church Members or According to the Present Method?" Rev. John D. Pickles and Rev. Edward M. Taylor, affirmative; Mr. Franklin B. Gifford and Enoch E. Doran, negative. Each speaker will be allowed ten minutes, after which the question will be thrown open to the Union. The appearer will also be given three minutes. Union. The speakers will also be given three min-utes for rebuttal. Music will be furnished by a good orchestra. We hope that every member will come and bring his friends with him.

VERNON B. SWETT, Sec.

ALPHA CHAPTEB will meet at liotel Bellevue, Beacon St., Monday, March 21. Luncheon (European plan) at 12.30. Address by President Warren on the quarter-centennial celebration, followed by trust-ces, Messrs. Haven, Perrin, Pickles and Taylor. It is important that we have a good attendance at this meeting. J. P. KENNEDY, Sec.

NEW ENGLAND SOUTHERN CONFERENCE. -NEW ENGLAND BOUTHBER CONFESSION.— Statistical blanks have been mailed to all members and supplies of the Conference. If any have failed to receive them, please notify the undersigned. It would be well to consult the Year Book of 1897, pp. 13, 80 and 81, before filling out blanks.

Thompsonville, Conn.

PREACHERS' AID SOCIETY. - The annual meet-PREACHERS' AID SOCIETY. — The annual meeting of the Preachers' Aid Society of the New England Conference will be held at Wesleyan Association Committee Room, 38 Bromfield St., on Monday, March 28, at 3.30 p. m., for the purpose of choosing officers and corporators for the ensuing year, and transacting such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

A. R. Weed, Sec.

BOSTON PREACHERS' MEETING. - At the Preachers' Meeting next Monday the discussion of "Ethical Legislation by the Church" will be con-tinued. Rev. Drs. C. F. Rice and E. T. Curnick will open the debate in ten-minute addresses, after open the debate in ten-minute addresses, after which opportunity will be given to others to participate. Prof. Borden P. Bowne, LL. D., will close the discussion. The public are invited. On Monday, March 28, Ballington Booth, commander of the "Volunteers," will speak. The meeting will be held in Bromfield St. Church.

Money Letters from Feb. 15 to March 1.

Am Sub Agency, J H Allen. J A Bowler, Mrs G W Bailou, F D Blakeslee, M T Braiey. W F Bourne, Mrs S A Bailey, G W Bryant, H D Bourne. J B Clifford, T Y Crowell & Co, G W Crosby, T L Carie-Mrs S A Bailey, G W Bryant, H D Bourne. J E Clifford, T Y Orowell & Co, G W Crosby, T L Carleton, N B Cook, C S Cummings (3), Mrs L W Crawford, H P Cooke, E G Chick, J E Clancy, G H Clarke, M B Crawford, Mrs A Cross, J F Chase. J M Durrell, Orrin Daggett, J E Duxbury, L H Dorchester, A E Drew, Mrs A C Dutton, G N Dorr, A H Dinsmore. Mrs Henry Ernst, Mrs Ira England. M L Fairbanks, Miss C Forbes, Mrs J W Ford. Edwin Genge, Mrs E F Greenleaf. Mrs C L Haigh, W P Hyde, M A Helliwell, Mrs H H Harriman, W J Heath, E P Herrick, E O Hart, M C L Haigh, W P Hyde, M A Helliwell, Mrs H H Harriman, W J Heath, E P Herrick, E O Hart, M C C Hanson, W H Hutchin. C H Kauffman, T N Kewley, F H Knight, H W Knight, M L Kneil. G D Lindsay (2), M A Lovering, E M Litch, H M Loud. G W Mansfield, Mrs M E Murray, Hugh Montgomery, T C Martin, A E Morris, Morse Bros, W B Mitcheil, J C Moss. Miss A Newberry, G W Norris, H L Nichols, J W Nicholson, Mrs M Niles. Mrs M E Paine, Mary E Peatfield, Postum Cereal Co, C A Purdy. J W Boss, Mrs. T P Bichardson, T S Ross. E C Symonds, J K Bears, F W Stevens, A Sanderson, I E Smith, J D F Slee, Mrs M B Spaulding. A B Storms, Mrs E H Sanborn, F P Shumway, G H Stone, O L Stone, P A Smith, Jr, Mrs B A Sweetser, Mrs W T Shepherd. E S Tasker, Wm Turkington, H Tuckley, J P Tillinghast, W J Thompson, N Tainter, U N Tilton. S F Upham. H Welch, J Wood, H W Worthen, True Whitti r, W Weymouth, G Y Washburn.

In His New Offices.

Mr. F. P. Shumway, who, for nearly a quarter of a century, has had offices in the Ballara building -, 11 to 25 Bromfield Street, is this week moving to the splendid new Jeweilers' building, corner of Bromfield and Washington Streets, where he will continue to act as confidential business adviser to manufacturers and jobbers who desire to increase their sales in either America or Eutope. Mr. Shumway has made a marked success in so working with small concerns that their business has grown to large pro-portions, and he now numbers among his clients several of the largest houses of this country. Mr. Shumway is held in high esteem by the newspaper fraternity, who appreciate his uniform courtesy to them, and his invariable habit of paying every bill promptly, and they will all wish him increased prosperity in his new offices. - Boston Herald.

Keep It Handy

** X-RAYS **

Wonderful discovery yet a discovery of far greater vaine will be made known free to any one addressing Lock Drawer L L, Rome, N. Y.

Coughs, Colds, and Beonchial Troubles come on unawares and when least expected. A dose or two of Adamson's Botanic Cough Balsam will check ould adopte the development. It is as good a life insurance. Sold by all Druggists.

OBITUARIES

Laughton. — Rev. Cyrus A. Laughton was born in Montville, Me., July 1, 1830, and died in North Anson, Me., Feb. 8, 1898.

When he was three years old his father, Mr. Sylvester Laughton, moved to Hallowell, and settled on a farm about two miles out of the city. Here Cyrus lived until his majority. His mother died when he was about twolve years old. During those years he was a constant attendant on church service and Sunday-school at the Methodist church in the city. At the age of twenty he was converted through the prayers and labors of an cider sister, at a camp-meeting on Arrowsic Island. On returning home he commenced to labor for the conversion of his associates, and in a short time a dozen of these sought and found Christ.

About a year after this time he received

to labor for the conversion of his associates, and in a short time a dozen of these sought and found Christ.

About a year after this time he received a call to the ministry which was so definite and clear that he never doubted the genuineness of it. His diffidence and conscious inability, however, seemed to him an insurmountable barrier. For more than twenty-eight years he disobeyed the summons. In the meantime he learned the carpenter's trade and worked at house building and in sash and blind shops in Bath and Augusta. In both cities he was an earnest Christian worker, sang constantly in the choir, taught in the Sabbath-school, and part of the time was class-leader.

In 1879 the shop in which he worked, and which contained his tools, was burned. As he saw the fire from his sleeping-room the conviction selzed him that God had once more called him to the ministry. He dared not disobey longer. At the next Conference he took work as a local preacher under Dr. Stephen Allen, presiding elder, and was stationed at Kingfield, where he remained two years and had a revival both years. From there he went to North Augusta, and in two years saw seventy-five converted under his labors. His next appointment was Phillips, from which he was sent to Solon, where he preached five years. He was subsequently appointed to Norridgewock, Oakland, Wayne and North Anson, where he ceased at the same time to work and live. At the Maine Conference in Bath, in 1834, he was ordained local daron, and in Pritiand, in 1888, he was ordained local elder. It was so late in life when he entered the ministry that he always remained in the local relation.

For about ten years he had been afflicted with a severe heart trouble. His end was sudden and peaceful.

Mr. Laughton was very highly esteemed by all. He was a good preacher and a faithful helpmeet, a son, William Laughton, of Natick, Mass., and a daughter, Mrs. E. J. Philbrick, of Augusta, who mourn their loss. Very largely attended funeral services were held at North Anson on Feb. 11, and at Au

Smith.— Betsy Howe (Snow) Smith, widow of Rev. Isaac Smith, of the New England Conference, died at the residence of her son, Edwin J. Smith, in New Haven, Conn., Dec. 28, 1897. She was born in Mariboro, Vt., Oct. 30, 1818.

28, 1897. She was born in Mariboro, Vt., Oct. 30, 1818.

At the age of eleven she found the Saviour and began her long Christian journey from which she never swerved during the many and changing years of a life that seemed to take in the sweetest joys and the bitterest trials of an itinerant minister's home. Sept. 9, 1841, she was married, in Wilmington, Vt., to Isaac Smith. They were schoolmates in Oberlin, Onio, and later in Newbury. Vt., when Bishop Baker was president.

In 1843, at the Vermont and New Hampshire Conference, Mr. Smith received his first appointment. So poor were the people that the young preacher and his wife received little but provisions, and they moved three times during the year, paying their own house-rent. At such a time only brave and consecrated men and women could stand the strain and test of the itinerancy. They were soon welcomed to the best places in that Conference. He was invited to the New England Conference in 1852, and together they did a great work for God and the church in Lynn and Harvard St., Cambridge, where a fine house of worship was built. Mr. Smith was worn out by this work, and went to Chicopee, where he died, after two months of service, in 1859.

Fron this time came the severe and trying

where he died, after two months of beaviers in 1859.

From this time came the severe and trying experiences of her life. She spent some time in Wilbraham, educating her son, Edwin Janes Smith. In 1875 she went to Worcester and in 1896 went with her son to New Haven, living with him to the end in the enjoyment of every blessing that loving care and service could give her. The home was always ordered with reference to her weak and painful condition, and no mother

ever received more loving and thoughtful at-

ever received more loving and thoughtful attention.

She had various severe falls, one among others resulting in a fractured hip that made her a cripple for the last year. She was for a long time a great sufferer, and if we are made "perfect through suffering," she will surely be among those "who have come up through great tribulation." It was not permitted her to go out much to the church



MRS. BETSY HOWE SMITH.

she loved, but her pastor knew how constantly she prayed for them.

It was a personal privilege, as a former pastor, to speak at her funeral and to tell to thers how calmly and sweetly she talked over everything about her death and funeral. Death was a welcome messenger, and through death she gained the heavenly life. She was buried in the family plot in Wilmington, Vt., on the last day of 1897.

A. D. VAIL

A. D. VAIL

Kimball. — Mrs. Marv J. (Smith) Kimball, wife of Rev. Ruel Kimball, a superanuate, died at Mercer, Me., Feb. 8, 1898 She was born in Winthrop, Me., Feb. 14, 1820.

Mrs. Kimball was converted in Augusts, in 1841, under the preaching of Rev. Henry Batler, who was at the time pastor at Hallowell. She was the daughter of a Congregational deacon. Fifty-five years ago she was united in marriage with Mr. Kimball. Each has been very devoted to the other; their lives have been as one life for the fifty-five years. Mr. Kimball's work was her work. She was interested in it. She attended the last thirty-five sessions of the Maine Conference without a break. She was a good singer, and had a powerful voice. It was her custom to sing, pray and speak in all social meetings while she was in health.

Seven years ago she had a shock in her left side, which, since that time, has rendered her a constant care to her husband. She had a shock in her right side about two weeks before her death. It affected her brain, rendering her delirious. She did not suffer, except from nervousness, but continually weakened until the last.

Mr. Kimball was sick in bed and unable to sit up during the funeral service, and is still very weak. The Lord wonderfully sustains him. He says: "It is all right. The will of the Lord be done." As he looked for the last time on the face of his beloved wife he said: "Good-night, Mamie, good-night! We'll meet in the morning."

H. S. Ryder

Morgan. — Joseph Morgan was born in Lowell, Mass., March 2, 1841, and died suddenly while on a visit to his native city, Feb. 14, 1898, aged nearly 57 years. He spent his childhood until nine years of age in Lowell, then lived on a farm in Colebrook, N. H., till he was sixteen, and after ward spent about four years in Lowell and Lawrence.

Lawrence.

He enlisted at Boston in the third Maine Regiment of Volunteers in April, 1861, for the suppression of the rebellion. At the first battle of Bull Run he was taken prisoner, and was carried first to Manssas Junction and thence to the tobacco houses, with 1,500 prisoners, at Richmond. Afterward he was transferred to the city prison at New Orleans, and then to Salisbury, N. C., where he was finally exchanged, having been a prisoner ten and a half months. He returned, after a home furiough, to his regiment, and at the

battle of Chancellorsville, in 1863, was severely wounded in the left arm. He suffered much from this wound, but after a 60 days' furlough reported again at the front.

After over three years of service in the army, he returned to Massachusetts, and has been engaged in business at varlous times at Springfield, Chicopee, Haydenville, and Chicopee Falls. The longest period was at Chicopee Falls, as a dry goods and grocery merchaut, first in company with Mr. O. E. Darling under the firm name of Darling & Morgan, and later for several years carrying on the business alone.

He was married, Nov. 10, 1870, to Miss Elia I. Cowles, of Chicopee. Both were converted a short time previous to their marriage, and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church at Chicopee Centre. Their membership was removed to the "Falls" Church in December, 1872, where they both have ever since been useful and active members. Mr. Morgan has been for many years a trustee and steward of the church. He and Mrs. Morgan were for many years the leaders in the singing of the church and rendered most acceptable service.

Though they have never had any children, their home has ever been the resort and enjoyment of young people. Their marked love and devotion to each other was observed by all. Mr. Morgan's love for his aged mother was also a conspicuous element in his character. It was on a visit to her, in celebration of her 90th birthday, that he yielded to disease of the heart from which he had been suffering for some montos. That he should die in his native city while visiting

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his aged mother, from a sentimental point of view appears very beautiful.

In the church he will be greatly missed. His genial face and hearty handshake made him a general favorite. Constitutionally he was moderate and deliberate in action, often slow in reaching conclusions, but tenacions in purpose where his judgment was convinced. Never enthusiastic in prayer-meeting services, yet he enjoyed the fervor of his brethren, and was always willing to speak or gray, as occasion offered, in his calm, loving, helpful way. He loved the church and sli its interests. It seemed to some that these last few months he had been ripening for heaven.

last few months he had been ripening for heaven.

Mr. Morgan's Christian character was of the substantial, reliable kind, and the influence of his consistent life will ever be treasured by the beroaved church. He has passed into that reaim where his spirit safely rests with those who have overcome by the blood of the Lamb.

The funeral was from his residence, Feb. 17, the services being in charge of the paster and Rev. N. B. Fisk. Sunday afternorn, Feb. 20, a special memorial service was held in the church, when the pastor read a sketch of his life and several laymen spoke of his beautiful character. Those who had been associated with him in business attested the sincerity, honesty, and business veracity of this man of God; his brethren in the church bore loving testimony to his genuineness and goodness; a male quartet rendered appropriate musical selections.

Mrs. Morgan has the sympathy of a large circle of friends.

Nichols.—Abby S. daughter of John G.

Nichols.—Abby S, daughter of John G. and Cynthia H. Hapgood, of Charlestown, Mass., and wife of Deacon S. Benjamin Nichols, of the Congregational Church in Beachmont, Mass., died suddenly in Bosten, Feb. 18, 1898, leaving a daughter one week old.

Beachmont, Mass., died suddenly in Bosten, Feb. 18, 1898, leaving a daughter one week old.

She was converted during the pastorate of Bishop Henry W. Warren at Trinity Church, Charlestown, and joined that church on the date of her baptism, March 7, 1869. She was a most zealous, devoted, and successful laborer in God's vineyerd, cultivating many waste p'aces until they blossomed as the rose. A life member of the Woman's Home Missionary Society, she was deeply interested in the problems clustering about the Negro in the Southland; indeed, in spirit she was at one wi'h Phillips, Garrison, Sumner, John Brown, and the rest of the incorruptible and undefiled abolitionists of New England. In Temperance, White Cross, Woman's Suffrage, King's Daughters, Southern Education and similar enterprises, her intense and unselfish nature and her Christian aitruistic spirit found genial though incessant labors, while her strong affections, indomitable energy and earnest purpose made failure in any of her undertakings almost impossible. Gitted with a keen and accurate insight, she was a discoverer of wise adaptations of means to ends in saving the wicked and the despairing from themselves, and in calling out the best in all whom she would help. One boy who had considerable musical taient, is now abroad perfecting his musical education; Mrs. Nicholes secured for him the opportunity. She discovered that the sister of another boy was almost submerged in immorelity, and by prompt action withdrew her

who had considerable musical talent, is now abroad perfecting his musical education; Mrs. Nichols secured for him the opportunity. She discovered that the sister of another boy was almost submerged in immorshity, and by prompt action withdrew her from her pestilential surroundings and secured the means to send her back to Sweden, where she is now leading an earnest Christian iite.

Mrs. Nichols was educated in the Charlestown High School and the Girls' Normal School, from which institutions she was graduated with honors, giving her life to the public school work of Boston. Her forte was the management of unruly boys, and her principal work was in this department of the Dudley School. She seemed to have the genius of tact, of sweetness, of light, of strength; and to govern without apparent effort. In many cases she followed up the boys after they left school, and by wise counsel and substantial aid kept them on the right road.

As a teacher in the Sunday-school from the time she was eighteen years old until the date of her marriage in 1894, she was honored with the confidence of pastor and official board, and was called by them to do special service as a class-leader among the boys in Trinity Church fellowship. Her ideals for boys were not impracticable; hence she could lead them to higher and nobler aims, while one with them in all that boys think they must be cr have. Her Christian work is not done. It has only begun. Her works foilce her. "They praise her in the gates."

The funeral services on Sunday, Feb. 20, were conducted by the undersigned, her former pastor at Trinity, and a true witness of her Christian character and inspiring example. As an introduction to the service, and according to her request, her favorite bymn, "The Home of the Soul," was surg.

Johnson. — Charles Johnson died at Mystic, Conn., in his 89th year. He was born in Coirain, Mass., Sept. 27, 1810.
In 1840 he moved to Mystic, where he became the pioneer of the wheelwright business in the village. In 1843 he was received into the Methodist Church, then just formed, by Rev. W. S. Simmons, and was ever a loyal Methodist, serving as class-leader and steward. He was also honored by his townsmen with offices of trust. None disputed his integrity. All acknowledged his genial and helpful spirit.

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trated catalogue address (mentioning Zion's Hua-C. C. BRAGDON, Principal.

NEWS OF THE WEEK

Tuesday, March 8

- Another rebellion in the Philippines.
- Spain withdraws her request for the recall of
- Brazil has five new war vessels which she is
- The London Daily News says British sympathy will be with us if war comes
- The House passes the Senate bill for two artillery regiments.
- -Joseph F. Loubat gives property worth \$1,200,000 to Columbia College for library endow-
- A report that China agrees to lease to Russia Port Arthur and Talien-wan.
- The gunboat "Montgomery" ordered to Havana.

Wednesday, March 9

- Prince Albert, heir presumptive to the Belgian throne, arrives in New York.
- The bill appropriating \$50,000,000 for national defence passes the House without one dissenting vote; it also passes the Senate, every member voting in the affirmative.
- Russia agrees to open to foreign trade Port Arthur and Talien-wan, but under Russian laws and administration.
- The War and Navy departments of the Government making preparations for an emergency, on a large scale; options on war-ships secured; 100,000 rifles purchased for volunteers; plans perfected for mobilizing troops on our Atlantic sea-
- Prof. James E. Keeler, now at Allegheny Observatory, elected director of Lick Observatory.
- The House Committee agrees to report favorably the Pacific Cable bill.

Thursday, March 10

- Pierce riot in Bombay; an uprising of Hindus and Mahometans against Europeans on account of plague inspection; several persons killed.
- Sympathetic assurances from European Govrnments of neutrality or moral support in ca this country has trouble with Spain; Germany and Austria said to be non-committal.
- The Lattimer (Pa.) trial results in a verdict "not guilty" for Sheriff Martin and his deputies.
- John Wanamaker accepts the nomination of the Business Men's League (Republican) as their candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania.
- A report that England has forbidden the sale of warships under construction, on the ground that she may need them herself.
- England's naval appropriation \$118,890,000 the largest of any year in her history.

Friday, March 11

- No war-ships yet sold to Spain.
- The "Miantonomoh" and "Katahdin" put in commission at League Island.
- -A British steamer ascends the Yangtse rapids ar as Chung King, province of Sze-chwan, to open up this western province to navigation and
- The Senate decides against a River and Harbor bill this year.
- Death, in England, of George Muller, the well-known philanthropist, founder of the Bris-tol Orphan Home.



- The House votes non-concurrence in the Senate amendments to the Indian bill.
- The Czar orders the disbursement of 90,000,000 rubles for new Russian war-ships.
- Amherst College to receive \$50,000 by the will of the late Amos R. Eno, of New York.
- Senator Proctor returns from Havana.

Saturday, March 12

- The Hindus and Mahometans in Bombay close their shops as a protest against the plague inspection.
- Japan unwilling to sell her cruisers n being built in this country on account of her strained relations with Russia; two Brazilian cruisers said to have been secured by us in England; Spain said to have secured a Chilean
- Death, at Los Angeles, Cal., of Gen. W. S Rosecrans.
- Miss Helen Gould adds \$20,000 to the endowment of Rutgers College, in memory of her parents.
- -Secretary Alger issues orders creating the Military Department of the South.
- The House Naval bill will provide for three \$5,000,000 battleships, one of them to be named the " Maine."
- China replies to England's protests that she cannot withstand the pressure of Russia.

Monday, March 14

- Collapse of the New York Stock market on Saturday; 825,000 shares sold in two hours
- Senor Polo y Bernabe, the new Spanish minpresents his credentials to President McKinley
- The Holland submarine boat successfully tried at Perth Amboy, N. J.
- The Bowery Mission Lodging House in New York city, under the auspices of the Christian Herald, burned; at least eleven persons perish.
- The King of Korea dismisses the Russian customs officer and military instructors.
- The largest dry dock on this continent to be built at Newport News, Va.
- Rev. Henry Pearce, of 1015 Main St., South San Francisco, Cal., writes for information concerning one Mr. H. Humphrey, and says that he knows "of something of interest to his descendants." Any reader who can supply the desired information will please communicate with Mr. Pearce.

The Pennsylvania Methodist thus force fully calls attention to a barmful tendency of the church in these times, to which we bave frequently referred, in saying: "Wendell Phillips once satirized the proneness of individuals to throw their own work upon organization by saying the tendency to organize everything is developing at such a rate that after awhile a mother will not be able to spank her own children without a constitution and by-laws."

Readers fortunate enough to secure a copy of the March number of The American Queen will notice the cover is a work of art both in design and coloring. The original stories for this number are "Mademoiselle," by Rosa Nouchette Cary, "The Jungle Fu-gitives," by Edward S. Eliis, and "Robin Hood and his Merry Men," by Barry Paine, each of them with striking illustrations. The fashion items are the latest up to date ideas from Paris, London and New York. Gilchrist & Co., the Winter St. Dry Goods Company, issue this attractive magazine at \$1 a year, but any lady calling at their office can cure a copy each mouth without any charg

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was Bronchial Troches" will quickly rough i., Asthma. Catarrh and Throat Sold only in boxes.

- -Rev. Young J. Allen, for forty years a missionary of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in Shanghai, China, has returned to America for a visit. He made a study of the Chinese language and history, and has written over one hundred books in Chinese, including several histories. His history of the Chinese-Japanese War pleased Vicercy Li Hung Chang so much that he sent Dr. Allen copies of all the telegrams and correspondence that he sent and received while acting as Peace Envoy.
- Rev. John W. Powell, Jr., assistant pastor of Centre Church, Malden, leaves, March 17, for Minneapolis, to become pastor of the Western Ave. Church, made vacant in January by the death of Rev. E. L. Ferris. He is already a probationer in the Northern Minnesota Conference, and has been studying for four years in Boston University, graduating from the Theological School last string. He is a native of Minnesota, born in Blue Earth City, March 22, 1872. He gradu-sted from the University of Minnesota in 1893. His father, who was one of the mem-hers of the first Minnesota Conference in 1856, and super-nousted in 1894 after fifty years in the active ministry, still lives at Mankato, Minn.

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